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Inspector 'dissatisfied' with Iraqi answers

MANAMA (R) — A top U.N. inspector on his way home from Iraq said he was extremely dissatisfied with Iraq's response to his questions on chemical and biological weapons. He was speaking six days after a U.N. nuclear inspector reported that Iraq had said it was finally willing to cooperate on key questions in the nuclear field, raising the possibility of an end to U.N. sanctions on the Iraqis. But Johan Santesson, head of a team which left Baghdad Monday, said of his meetings with the Iraqis: "I'm extremely disappointed and extremely dissatisfied with the outcome of the question-and-answer sessions." He said two main obstacles remained in the chemical and biological fields, and on neither was Iraq forthcoming: Failure to make a full declaration of who supplied what for Iraq's chemical and biological weapons programmes and failure to account for the chemical weapons used in Iraq's 1980-88 war with Iran.

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ing receives call from Arafat

WASHINGTON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received today a telephone call from Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO, congratulating him on his full recovery from the operation he underwent last August. Mr. Arafat wished King Hussein good health and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. The two leaders exchanged views on regional and international issues and the latest developments in the Palestinian situation.

Arab hopes to end Syria-Iran rift

DRO (AP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, who is mediating between Egypt and Syria, said Monday that both sides want to find a peaceful solution to the dispute between them. Speaking after a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak, Sharaa said he hoped for a diplomatic solution between Egypt and Iran. Asked if he discussed the Egypt-Iran crisis with Mubarak, Mr. Sharaa said: "We discussed this issue with the meeting with President Mubarak. I felt that the Egyptian leadership is keen on peacefully settling any dispute between them and Iran." The Syrian minister said in previous meetings with Egyptian officials, they had expressed a similar desire. "We feel there will be contacts to settle the situation," Mr. Sharaa said. "Our concern is that these contacts be direct and between the two sides in the first phase, and then through higher level officials."

ab mediator due in Baghdad soon

BAHRA (R) — Veteran Tunisian mediator Rachid Driss, charged by the Arab League to mediate between Kuwait and Iraq over the prisoners of war, said today he will visit Baghdad. "Iraqi authorities said they were ready to receive me. I will be here soon after a stop in Cairo to meet the league's secretary general, Esmat Abdul Meguid," Driss told Reuters. "It is a sign of days."

q to aid Sudan develop oil fields

ARTOUM (AP) — Iraq has agreed to help Sudan develop its oil fields and will send Iraqi experts to join in operating drilling and refining equipment in southern Sudan. The agreement was signed Sunday after three days of talks between Iraqi Oil Minister Osama Abdul Razzak and Sudan's Energy and Mining Minister Osman Abdul Jabbar. Sudan recently bought oil concessions from the American oil company Chevron to set up a private Sudanese company, Concorp, to drill for oil and refine it. The refineries in Khartoum in the southwestern part of Sudan produce about 2,000 barrels of fuel daily. According to the agreement, Iraq will help Sudan develop its oil fields and refine it in the same region, and provide a study on building a refinery near them with a capacity of 70,000 barrels daily.

Iran slams West over chemical arms

TEHRAN (R) — Iran, accused of developing chemical weapons, expressed concern Monday about the big power monopoly on production and use of such arms. In a message to a conference on the environmental effects of chemical weapons, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani condemned Western countries and companies for building up a chemical arsenal which it used against Iran during its 1980-88 war, Tehran said.

Japanese soldier killed in blast

YOKOHAMA (R) — A roadside bomb exploded in an area held by anti-militia allies in South Lebanon Monday, critically wounding a Japanese soldier, Japanese sources said. They said the soldier was one of a group of Japanese guerrillas who planted a bomb west of the town of Tyne aimed to attack the Lebanese South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

Israel mounts massive search for kidnap victim

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel sealed off the occupied territories Monday as police and the army searched for a paramilitary policeman believed kidnapped by a Palestinian group. The kidnappers issued a statement Sunday saying they were holding the trooper, Nissim Toledano, 29, and warned he would be killed unless Israel released his spiritual leader by Sunday night.

Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, 57, the founder of the Islamic underground group Hamas, is serving a life term in prison for a manslaughter conviction. He was detained in May 1989. The deadline for Sheikh Yassin's release of 9 p.m. (1900 GMT) Sunday passed without further contact from the kidnappers. But late Monday afternoon, a Western television journalist in occupied Jerusalem received an anonymous phone call again threatening Sgt. Maj. Toledano's life. The caller, who identified himself as "Mohammad from Gaza," said: "Please tell your people that the policeman will be dead tonight if Sheikh Yassin is not freed."

There was no way to determine

the authenticity of the call.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were placed under curfew and roadblocks stopped traffic on roads throughout Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

All police leave was cancelled and a police commander told Israel Radio helicopters had been pressed into service.

Army vehicles with loudspeakers roared through the darkened streets of the Gaza Strip at 5 a.m. ordering most of the 800,000 residents not to leave their houses.

Soldiers at roadblocks searched both Israeli and Palestinian cars, turning back Palestinians trying to enter Israel. Palestinians inside Israel were ordered to leave.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, working from the defence ministry, summoned ministers to an emergency session of the inner cabinet around midnight. Mr. Rabin, a former army chief known as a hawk on security issues, is also defence minister. The Israeli government, casting around for ways to save Toledano, warned the kidnappers not to harm the soldier.

In Lebanon, a Hamas leader deported by Israel in 1990 accused the Jewish state of trying to win time to snare the kidnappers,

saying the soldier would be in "brave danger" unless Sheikh Yassin was freed quickly.

The kidnapping in the central Israeli city of Lod aroused alarm among Israelis at the apparent emergency of a daring and sophisticated Islamic force capable of striking in the heart of the Jewish state.

It was the latest in a series of exploits by Hamas, which is boosting its stature in the occupied territories against the larger, more secular Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Israeli hardliners blamed the violence on the "concessions" offered in the Washington peace talks, saying they made Israel look weak.

Moderates called for peace talks to be speeded up to undercut the fundamentalists. Police Minister Moshe Shahal told Israel Television the government would not address the question of negotiating with the kidnappers until it knows "who the kidnappers are, and after it has received evidence and proof that Nissim Toledano is being held by them, that he is well, that he is healthy and alive."

Israel sealed the West Bank (Continued on page 5)

Pressure mounts for Marines to move into Somalia famine-belt

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Pressure mounted Monday for U.S. forces to move quickly into this country's famine-ravaged interior, and a dispute simmered over whether their mission encompasses disarming Somali gunmen.

The question of how assertive the troops should be was underscored Monday when several hundred Somali men stripped and beat a woman after accusing her of being a prostitute for French peacekeepers.

The attack occurred in front of a building housing French Foreign Legionnaires and within 100 metres of U.S. troops sitting on an armoured vehicle. The troops did not intervene during the 15-minute attack, which ended with the woman being helped away by

a man apparently defending her with a knife.

Security forces loyal to Mohammed Farrah Aidid, the clan leader who controls the southern part of Mogadishu, said the woman was taken to a nearby police building. Relatives brought her clothes, they said.

Relief agencies have criticised the Marines for not yet moving into Baidoa, a violence-ravaged city 200 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu in the heart of the famine belt.

But Marine Lieutenant-General Robert D. Johnson, commander of U.S. forces in Somalia, says he will not send Marines to Baidoa until troop strength is increased.

"I'm going to get there as quickly as I can. But there's an assumption that if you get there quickly that's all you have to do," he told reporters Sunday.

Rumours circulated Monday in Baidoa that the Marines could be in

the city as early as Monday night.

In an indication either that security was improving in the city or that relief agencies were trying to force Gen. Johnston's hand, six unguarded cars delivered food to a village 40 kilometres south of Baidoa. It was the first time in months that a convoy had gone without armed guards.

In Stockholm on Sunday, U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger confirmed that U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali had sent President George Bush a letter setting out what he saw as the aims of the U.S. operation.

These included removing mines from the country, disarming armed groups and militias and seeking to pacify the country, as well as the purely humanitarian tasks of bringing food to the starving and medicine to the sick.

(Continued on page 5)

CSCE gets a Russian jolt

STOCKHOLM (R) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev stunned a European security conference Monday by delivering a cold war-style speech which appeared to mark an unexpected return to Russian expansionism. But minutes later he retracted his remarks, saying it was meant as a scare tactic to dramatise what might happen if beleaguered Russian President Boris Yeltsin lost power and conservatives took over in Moscow.

In a bizarre incident, ministers attending the start of a two-day session of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) first heard Mr. Kozyrev threaten to use military force and economic pressure against the newly-independent republics of the former Soviet Union to reassert Russian domination.

A wave of consternation rolled through the CSCE centre as the 51 foreign ministers from Europe, North America and Central Asia tried to digest the message that the brief era of Russian cooperation with the West was apparently over.

But Mr. Kozyrev soon took the floor again to explain.

"I want to assure you and all others present that neither President Yeltsin, who remains leader and guarantor of Russian internal and foreign policy, nor I as minister of foreign affairs, will ever agree to what I read out in my previous speech," he said.

A Russian text of the initial speech released to the media described the territory of the former Soviet Union as "a post-imperial space where Russia is preparing to defend its interests by all available means including military and economic ones."

It said Russia was going to insist the former Soviet republics enter "a new federation or confederation" and that there would be "a tough discussion" about it.

U.S. denies 'strategic' goal in Somalia — Arab states declined to take the lead

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior American official Monday categorically denied that the U.S. was hoping to achieve any strategic objectives in the Horn of Africa through its deployment of tens of thousands of soldiers in Somalia and revealed that Washington took the lead in the humanitarian effort in the country after Arab and Islamic countries declined to do so.

Andrew Natsios, special coordinator of the U.S. approach to Somalia, also presented for the first time the scenario that Washington hopes would unfold once security has been restored in the war-shattered, chaotic country of starving millions and reiterated that the American involvement in the country was purely humanitarian.

"We have no geopolitical interest or objectives" in sending troops to lead the U.N.-approved force to Somalia to protect food convoys and relief officials, Mr. Natsios said in a satellite press conference with journalists from Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

"We would not have waited so long before taking action if we

had" such an objective, he said.

It was an indirect reference to the 23 months that passed since the ouster of the Mohammed Siad Barre regime, which plunged Somalia to anarchy and chaos leading to the death of hundreds of thousands from starvation and related diseases as well as clan rivalry before the U.N. Security Council authorised the use of force for humanitarian purposes.

In any event, Mr. Natsios pointed out, "the cold war is over" and the U.S. is cutting down its military budget by 25 per cent ... the number of its armed forces ... its weapons ... and this policy precludes American military presence in any form in any foreign country.

"Believe me, our presence in Somalia will be short ... very short ... in fact we would like to have (the forces) back by Christmas," Mr. Natsios affirmed. But he declined to specify any timeframe for the withdrawal of American forces from the country.

He told reporters during the exchange, arranged by Worldnet, an arm of the United States Information Services, that an indigenous Somali police force would be set up "under the control of the U.N. and reportable to the elders (of the various

(Continued on page 5)

PLO: Autonomy accord possible by April

CAIRO (AP) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Monday he believed that Palestinian agreement with Israel on an interim five-year period of self-rule in the occupied territories could be reached by next April.

Saeed Kamal, the PLO's representative in Cairo, told reporters that such an agreement would be linked to a final settlement. He said that both accords would be based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338.

Mr. Kamal said that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat would visit Cairo next week to discuss with President Hosni Mubarak the results of the eighth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks now under way in Washington.

Mr. Kamal said that

Palestinian-Israeli talks had "nearly reached agreement on jurisdiction in certain fields."

Israel wants to give Palestinians jurisdiction over municipal and other services like education and health, but the Palestinians want control of security and land as well as legislative powers.

"It is my personal opinion that agreement on the interim period can be reached by April and can be linked to the final settlement," Mr. Kamal said.

Mr. Kamal spoke to reporters after meeting with President Mubarak's wife, Suzanne, and handing her a cheque for 403,000 pounds (\$121,000) as a contribution from Palestinians in Egypt to the rebuilding of schools destroyed by the Oct. 12 earthquake.

President Hafez Al Assad Monday rejected Israeli contentions that U.N. Security Council resolutions provide for a partial withdrawal from the occupied territories.

"Partial pullout forms a step towards peace but does not bring about peace," Mr. Assad said in a speech to the 22nd general congress of the Syrian Trade Union.

The Syrian leader said his country would continue participating in the U.S.-sponsored negotiations with Israel despite a current deadlock "but not forever."

Israel contends that Resolution 242 does not specify that it relinquish all of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

But Mr. Assad said: "Our cherished desire for peace will

never be at the expense of land, because to the Arabs, and Syria in the forefront, land is dignity and homeland."

"Peace is not a matter of sale or purchase but is rights and obligations: Rights that should go back to their owners and obligations and commitments to security and peace which ought to be carried out by all sides," he said.

The president touched on divisions among Arab countries. "The present circumstances of the Arab Nation and the great challenges facing it make Arab solidarity a necessity," he said.

Mr. Assad said Syrians were pleased with the latest political developments in Lebanon and "are looking forward to eliminating the traces of the civil war. This should be achieved by time."

Hamas: Kidnap aims at pressuring Israel

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The kidnapping of an Israeli policeman in the city of Lod Sunday marked the latest phase in what Hamas calls its strategy to "liberate Palestine from Zionist occupation."

While the kidnapping aims at freeing Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, Hamas officials in Amman say it is the first in a series the organisation plans to take to force Israelis to "leave Palestine."

The organisation, which evolved in the early 1980s in the occupied territories, is a religious group which is at odds with main-

stream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) groups that support a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Hamas's goal is to liberate Palestine of Jewish control from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River. Like religious parties in Israel, the organisation opposes political cohabitation with secular forces.

On a practical level, however, Hamas has formed a coalition with Palestinian leftist groups that oppose the current peace process, although the latter do not subscribe the Hamas's goal of total liberation.

(Continued on page 5)

Yemeni premier said to resign after riots

SANAA (R) — Opposition sources in Yemen said Monday that Prime Minister Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas had resigned after cost-of-living riots in which 13 people were killed.

Government officials refused to comment on the claim and there was no way to obtain independent confirmation.

"Attas has definitely resigned and nobody can deny this," Abdul Rahman Al Jifri, leader of the pro-Saudi Sons of Yemen League, told Reuters.

The opposition reported that President Ali Abdullah Saleh had rejected the resignation, submitted Saturday. They said govern-

ment officials were trying to persuade Mr. Attas to go back on his decision.

Mr. Jifri said Mr. Attas attended a cabinet meeting on Sunday due to "attempts to convince him to withdraw his resignation."

He also said that Vice-President Ali Salem Al Baith was in seclusion because of wide differences with Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) party.

"The situation is deteriorating, the country is on fire and the vice-president is in seclusion,"

(Continued on page 5)



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Water — tale of a not-so-fluid struggle in Somalia

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

WARS HAVE been fought and thousands have given their lives over water, the eternally precious commodity, since time immemorial. Somalia is no exception to the rule. But what makes it a little different in the Horn of Africa is the fact that water has also been used extensively as a weapon in clan rivalry by denying it to the enemies.

And that was one of the major problems that confronted the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in its efforts to address water shortages in Somalia, where hundreds of thousands have fled their homes and villages in the face of anarchy and violence.

As UNICEF experts fanned out in April and May within Mogadishu and surrounding areas, seeking to repair water wells and entice people back to their original dwellings, they found themselves facing certain "unique" situations, says Mohammad Omar, head of the water and sanitation programmes of UNICEF in Somalia.

"Some water wells were full of dead bodies; others were filled with stones, and yet some others were blasted away," says Mr. Omar. "It took a long time before we could clean some of the wells and ensure that they provided potable water to the residents."

Wanton destruction after looting and plundering was the key word to the Somali clan war. Reports are common of villages being looted in succession a dozen times in six or nine months by different gangs, who left behind nothing of value.

"They even dug up water pipes and destroyed them for no apparent reason," says Osman Adele, who fled his village, about 30 kilometres outside Mogadishu, in January, along with his family of six.

"We would have stayed on if we could get water," says Mr. Adele.

a farmer and livestock breeder. "But the bandits and gunmen made sure we did not have any." By and large this is the sentiment expressed by many Somalis who find themselves turned into refugees in their own country.

"Ensuring water is available in the village is one of our main means to bring the villagers back to their homes," Mr. Omar explained.

To start with, Mr. Omar, an Afghan national said, Somalia never had an effective water supply system even before the crisis. "There were some networks in the major towns and cities, but beyond them the only means was water wells."

Even in cities and towns, a majority of the population had to depend on water wells for their needs. And these were among those targeted and destroyed during the rampage of the gunmen during the heyday of civil war and anarchy in Somalia.

Now, Mr. Omar estimates, it will cost anywhere between \$150 million and \$200 million to set up a national water network to cover most of Somalia. Again, remote areas will have to continue to rely on water wells and ropes and pulleys to meet their needs.

As things stood in the latter half of November, UNICEF was slowly making its cautious way inland after repairing old wells and digging new wells in some of the key cities on the coast.

It was not an easy task. "Everyone suspected us of hidden motives and refused to operate with us," recalled Barberis Delio, a UNICEF consultant.

"Children used to stone us here and there. We came up here to assess the status of water wells and try to repair some of them," the Italian water expert said, gesturing to small boys and girls waving at the UNICEF vehicles taking us through a hilltop camp in northern Mogadishu.

THE UNITED Nations Development Programme Sunday reached an agreement with militia leaders to operate a water pumping plant at Aflo, about 15 kilometres outside Mogadishu. In full capacity, the plant is supposed to meet 80 per cent of the capital's water needs. But aid workers have said that over 300,000 people now living in Mogadishu are not covered by the network connected with the plant and thus have to depend on the brackish, often contaminated water from the shallow water wells. The plant, which functioned erratically in the past two years, was closed down completely in September by a militia "guarding" it after a dispute over payment for protection — in other words for not looting it.

giving them water that they took a new look at us," he explained. "Now they greet us and wave to us."

UNICEF has made it a policy to dig wells near every mother and child care centre — again something new in itself for the Somali capital. However, many residents still face one or two-kilometre treks to nearest water wells; a problem partially addressed by donkey carts laden with barrels selling water in areas where wells do not exist and to those who can afford it.

In northern Mogadishu — with a population of about 500,000 including about 150,000 people displaced by the civil war — UNICEF has dug or repaired 135 water wells.

In the south, where there was relatively easier access to places, over 150 wells are operating. "Now every Mogadishu resident could get an average of one litre of water every day," said Shukri H. Adawe, a Somali working with UNICEF water programmes.

A paltry amount indeed, but a big achievement compared with the total lack of water for months of civil war violence.

In the southwestern town of Bardere, UNICEF, in coordina-

tion with other international relief agencies, has set up its highly successful "water purification project" on the banks of the gushing Jubba River.

The system involves two tanks — one to take in the pumped muddy water to be cleaned of impurities such as soil and solid waste and the other for chlorination.

According to relief officials in the area, the rate of diarrhoea and measles went down rapidly after the system swung into operation two months ago.

However, the traditional UNICEF approach and launching projects and handing them over to the local authorities does not work in Somalia simply because there is no local authority. As a result, UNICEF remains very much in charge and bears full responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the water wells.

"We are trying to hand over the responsibilities to local residents, who, in their own interests, should take over," said Delio.

The UNICEF water programme allows for financing wells up to a depth of 40 metres. In cases where water could be found any deeper, local residents have to share the additional cost — a concept that

works well not only to invite local interest and participation in projects but also to bring about a sense of responsibility.

The problems that face UNICEF water programmes in lawless Somalia are numerous, starting with the daily "disappearance" of ropes and pulleys and continuing with residents' resistance to bury dead bodies away from areas near water wells.

In many cases, UNICEF had to abandon new water-well projects since the ownership of the land was in dispute. "What is the use of digging a new well and making it operative only to find someone coming along the next day claiming ownership of the land and denying others access to the well?" asked Mr. Delio.

Chlorination is another area of headaches. "We simply do not have the resources to go around periodically to ensure that the water wells are chlorinated," said Mr. Delio. "So we entrusted local residents with the job only to find out later that few of them used the chlorine we gave them to purify the water. Instead, they used it to wash their clothes."

"Dead bodies pose another major problem," said Mr. Omar. "When we came here in April we found thousands of bodies buried under less than two feet or just dumped under garbage. The only way to get over this problem was moving the entire garbage in loaders and dump them outside the city."

Having done that, UNICEF still faced the problem of shallow graves which would disgorge their contents with the first rains; a problem that assumes a graver magnitude when seen in light of the fact that epidemics had caused the death of many of those buried in makeshift graves.

The problem was and still is, explains Mr. Omar, that families object to the remains of their loved ones being moved.

"It is a difficult situation when confronted with the sentiments and

emotions of families," he said. What he left unsaid was indeed that any forced move on the part of anyone against the will of the family could easily lead to a gunfight which would produce more bodies to be buried.

Coating the entire sidewalls of water wells with thick cement works in most cases to prevent seepage, but that does not address the problem of sanitation in the populated areas where shallow graves hold dead bodies.

Heavy rains fell in the last week of November, and the reality of the threat could not have been brought any closer than the drench of death that seeped from the mounds of sand with headstones in heavily populated neighbourhoods.

On the positive side, however, is that people are slowly drifting back to their homes as a result of the UNICEF water programmes.

It is a folly to dig wells in newly-populated areas, says Mr. Delio, armed with an array of maps pinpointing the location of water wells, old and new. "It will only encourage the displaced to stay on in their newfound locations, whereas our objective is to get people to their actual homes," he explained. (By design or coincidence it was the maps of Mogadishu water wells that Mr. Delio had in his possession that led to his detention last week in the south of the capital where he was accused of spying and possessing "secret military maps" of Mogadishu. He was freed 48 hours later after high-level U.N. intervention.)

To serve the objective of attracting people back to their homes, Mr. Delio said, UNICEF is planning to repair old wells and dig new ones near the "green line" dividing Mogadishu into fiefdoms of rival leaders.

Every building on the "green line" is in shatters and it will indeed be a Herculean task to entice people back there, particularly with the onset of winter.

But "someone has to start somewhere," explained Mr. Delio, an eternal optimist.

Iraq settles down for long haul under sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) — Shopowners in Baghdad's flea market sit forlornly among their empty shelves reading newspapers. Offices of foreign airlines along Sa'adoun Street are dark and shuttered.

But the capital, its Gulf war damage almost completely repaired, bustles with the movement of people going about their daily lives despite a 28-month-old U.N. trade blockade.

The government is still able to sustain a rationing system and diplomats estimate industry is working at about 30 per cent of capacity despite a lack of imported raw materials and spares.

However, austerity measures introduced last week banning the sale of some imported goods reflect increasing difficulties.

The first effect of the ban on the sale of 146 imported consumer items, from furniture to cigarettes, was to send prices for domestic goods soaring.

As traders cleared shelves of foreign electrical goods and clothing, Iraqis predicted a flourishing black market.

Security has been tight around shops and markets. The Baath Party daily Al Thawra said Monday inspectors from the trade and finance ministries had found houses turned into warehouses to hide goods from the list.

The import restrictions list and deadline have already gone through changes since they were first mooted in August.

The Trade Ministry relented further on Sunday, saying that as traders had been so cooperative they would be allowed to store unsold items instead of surrendering them.

"The government wants to support the dinar and it doesn't really know how," one diplomat said. The Iraqi currency, is officially worth \$3.10, but fetches about 30 dinars on the black market.

Until the U.N. Security Coun-

cil banned Iraq's oil exports after the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, annual oil \$12 billion in 1989 and country's 18 million to enjoy a high standard.

Diplomats say Iraq's vast stockpile of oil spurs stored before the crisis.

"People are even now subsidising their food need ing personal items," said Masud Saleheen, director of the U.N. WFP Programme (WFP).

"The worst affected level civil servants out comes."

Some salaries have creased but they cannot keep pace with the rises. Many government employees have a second job driving a taxi for a few hours after their office p.m., to help make ends.

Government subsidies provide only about a monthly needs. Aid was people who previously meat every day may now meat just once a week.

WFP figures show wheat flour has risen by 5 cent since before the war. Rice, which would have cost 200 fils per kilo before war, is around 10,500.

Aid workers are wary of malnutrition as well as preventable diseases as borne illnesses caused sanitation.

The government is also a joint trading company vate traders to import foodstuffs in an attempt the market under control.

But with no sign that tions will be lifted any President Saddam Hussein speech broadcast on TV urged people to be patient look to the future.

Peres says Japan key to Mideast peace

TOKYO (Agencies) — The Middle East needs Japanese investment because a lasting peace must be guaranteed by stable growth as well as agreements on borders, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday.

"We are looking for two kinds of investment from Japan — Japanese business in Israel and Japanese business in the Middle East region," he said after arriving for a four-day visit as part of a tour that will also take in Europe and Washington.

"The Middle East of confrontation is changing to a Middle East of accommodation," he said. "That is why we want Japan to increase the depth of relations both with the Arab countries and us."

Mr. Peres said he aimed to convince Japanese leaders, banks and other prospective investors that Israel was serious about long-range peace plans. Talks be-

tween Israel and Arab states began last year.

Besides the call for more investment, Mr. Peres said he would discuss pending bilateral issues such as double taxation, joint ventures in advanced technology and ways to increase trade.

He is due to meet Emperor Akihito, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, leading businessmen and politicians.

Mr. Peres told reporters he hoped the visit would also enable the two countries to improve economic ties that until recently were limited by Japan's pro-Arab stance in the Middle East conflict.

Earlier this month, Tokyo broke with earlier precedents by calling for an end to the Arab boycott of firms that deal with Israel, calling the sanctions a violation of free trade.

"We appreciate very much Japan's calling on the Arabs to end their unfair boycott," Mr. Peres told reporters. "We wish to improve relations between Japan and Israel on a mutual basis."

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel is accompanying Mr. Peres on his visit, which will include meetings with many Japanese business and financial officials.

Mr. Peres said Israel hoped to further normalise economic ties with an agreement to avoid double taxation on bilateral trade. Israel also wants to promote joint ventures in science and technology, he said.

"We would like to bring to the attention of the Japanese our conviction that we are going to face a new and peaceful Middle East and our conviction that the Japanese can do more business beneficial to the two sides," Mr. Peres said.

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19:00	News in French
19:15	Variables
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Golden Girls
21:30	Magical
22:00	News in English
22:30	
Feature Film: "The Captive City"	
PRAYER TIMES	
06:00	Fajr
06:23	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:30	Dhuhr
14:15	'Asr
16:30	Maghrib
18:00	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Eulalia Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
Church of the Redeemer — Tel. 638526	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
A depression centred over Cyprus accompanied by a cold front will affect the Kingdom, therefore, it will be partly cloudy, and rain will fall in the northern parts extending gradually to the central parts of the Kingdom. A drop in temperatures will occur and winds will be easterly associated with thunder activity. In Aqaba it will be	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
partly cloudy and scattered showers of rain will be expected, and winds will be southerly fresh, and sea rough.	
Amman	03:07
Aqaba	10:22
Duqari	04:08
Jordan Valley	12:16
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Nofal Al Dabbab	827195
Dr. Shabanah Emam	784772
Dr. Ramzi Masawi	894788
Dr. Salwan Dabbab	768751
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fordows pharmacy	778336
Nairoh pharmacy	637055
Al Asma pharmacy	626772
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shnechani pharmacy	637460
Nairoh pharmacy	626772
Najib pharmacy	847632
Alqods pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Tarq Hijawi	985445
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Fire Brigade	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	63021
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	874661
Complaints	787111
Amman Municipality	771013
Complaints	7711126
Telephone Information	8916115
(directory assistance)	6224050
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
IRBID:	
Dr. Zayed Al A'taj	(—)
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
Rail Flight Information	08-53300
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53300
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	81381322
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	64428116
Al-Khadra Maternity	891228
Jabal Amman Maternity	632362
Mathias, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	6641714
Sundani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	658945
Al-Musader Hospital	6672719
The Islamic, Abdali	66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641649
Italian, Al-Mudrajeez	7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ahrarfeh	7311126
Army, Marka	8916115
Queen Alia Hospital	6224050
Al-Dhaher, J. Amn.	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al-Hilma Modern Hospital	(09)990990
IBID:	
Princess Basmah Hospital	(02)275555
Groch Catholic Hospital	(02)272775
Al Al Naloes Hospital	(02)247100
AQA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:30	Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:30	Dhahran (RJ)
08:15	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15	Aqaba (RJ)
09:45	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:30	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
12:15	Larnaca, Vienna (AZ)
14:00	Khartoum (RJ)
17:45	Dubai (RJ)
01:00	Bucharest (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
14:45	Rome (AZ)
19:50	Beirut (ME)
22:30	Bucharest (RO)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:00	Aqaba (RJ)
08:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:00	Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:30	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:50	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:50	London (RJ)
13:00	London (RJ)
13:30	Jeddah (RJ)
14:00	Cairo (RJ)
14:30	Dubai (RJ)
15:00	Damascus (RJ)
15:30	Aden (RJ)
16:00	Larnaca (RJ)
16:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
17:00	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:00	Beirut, Paris (AF)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per	
Apple	300
Banana	300
Banana (Mekranian)	600
Bone	330
Cabbage	250
Carrot	250
Cauliflower	250
Cucumbers (large)	300
Cucumbers (small)	300
Eggplant	600
Garlic	600
Grapesfruit	200
Lemon	200
Marrow (large)	200
Marrow (small)	200
Onion (dry)	200
Onion (green)	200
Orange	200
Potato (new)	200
Potato (sweet)	200
Potato	200
Spinach	200
Mint	200
Groceries	200

Home News

Yemeni delegation surveys Jordan's investment incentives

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Yemeni delegation touring Jordan on a day visit is examining Jordan's investment system to discover a high level of incentives to establish projects in the country.

The delegation, headed by Mr. Abdul Karim al-Saleh, consists of members from the Yemeni Ministry of Investment and Administration, the Free Zones Corporation, the Aqaba port and other institutions.

The team, which is scheduled to leave for Yemen on Wednesday, met with Mr. Abdullah Ensour, Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and reviewed the incentives

and exemptions Jordan is offering to investors under a law for encouraging foreign investments in the Kingdom.

Mr. Awad, who attended the meeting with the minister, outlined various aspects of the Jordanian economy, giving details about the climate for investments and the government's policies to encourage economic projects. In discussing the general economic atmosphere, Dr. Ensour and Mr. Awad spoke about the economic restructuring programme applied in Jordan to help pep up the economy that was severely hit by the Gulf crisis. He said that the programme has succeeded in enabling Jordan to achieve good successes in reducing foreign debts and minimising inflation.

Dr. Ensour said that in 1992 Jordan achieved 11 per cent growth and unemployment has been reduced while the current domestic revenues now cover current expenses for the first time in Jordan's history.

Princess Sarvath visits Phonetics Research Centre

By Caroline Farraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan called at the Phonetics Research Centre at the University of Jordan Monday.

The Princess was shown the \$1 million equipment installed at the centre which includes a computer used to carry out sound analysis, equipment used to monitor the performance of vocal cords in voiced sounds, psycho-linguistic technology and tools used to examine communication disorders in children's speech.

The Princess toured the centre and talked to students with speech impediments, and specialists' difficulties who run the centre's rehabilitation programme.

University President Fawzi Gharaibeh, who accompanied the Princess on the tour, said that the Swiss government has also offered to train a team of Jordanian specialists and help promote the centre's activities.

The Centre's Director Yousef Al Halis reviewed the centre's

activities, noting that the staff were conducting research, surveys and taking part in the rehabilitation of students suffering from speech difficulties.

Teacher training focus of conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab League Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO) and the Ministry of Education Monday opened a four-day meeting on the job training for teachers of the Arab World.

Delegates from Jordan and three other Arab states are discussing topics related to raising the standards and proficiency of teachers and enabling them to acquire at least the first university degree through special educational and training programmes, according to the Ministry of Education.

The Jordanian experiment in training teachers will be among the main themes on the agenda, the ministry said. "Jordan gives due care to raising the standards of teachers to enable them to carry out the best performance and help the country overhaul the educational process in the coming 21st century," said Dr. Munther Al Masri, Ministry of Education Secretary General in a speech at the opening session.

One of the main recommendations and resolutions passed by the Jordanian Educational Conference in 1987 was to raise the standard of teachers through programmes initiated in the 1988-89 scholastic years. Dr. Masri said. Under the programme, teachers holding community college diplomas who have gone on to university degrees are estimated at about 22,000.

Dr. Masri noted that the project which takes 10 years to accomplish was running side by side with another designed to help university graduates and teachers to attain higher degrees and supervisors to acquire doctorates.

On-the-job teachers training programmes, Dr. Masri said, were being conducted with the help of the University of Jordan, Yarmouk and Muta Universities. Delegates from Egypt, Bahrain, Iraq and Jordan are taking part in the meeting which ALESCO said was part of its programmes to help Arab countries improve and modernise their educational systems. ALESCO delegate Dr. Jubail Bishara told the meeting that raising the standard of teachers was one of the main problems facing educational systems of the Arab World.

Educationists from Arab universities in the private and public sectors in Jordan attended the opening session.

Royal Jordanian has pulled out of Gulf crisis gloom, says airline chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, has achieved good successes from its operations during 1992 after overcoming the negative consequences of the Gulf war and the world economic recession, according to its 29th Marketing Conference which began in Amman Monday.

RJ President and Chief Executive Mahmoud Jamal Balgez announced that the national airline's total revenues by the end of 1992 are expected to reach JD 253-million, registering an 18 per cent increase over 1991 figures.

By the end of 1992 RJ will have made 14,197 flights which is an increase of 28 per cent over last year's operations. Mr. Balgez said. He said that during this year RJ's aircraft will have carried 1.1 million passengers which is an increase of 40 per cent over the total number of passengers in 1991 and the airline transported 46,350 tonnes of goods, registering eight per cent over that transported in 1991.

The two-day sales conference which coincides with the national airline's 29th anniversary, held at the Philadelphia Hotel, is



Mahmoud Balgez inaugurates Royal Jordanian's 29th Annual Marketing Conference Monday in Amman

attended by RJ sales managers from various offices around the world. Items on the agenda include RJ's marketing strategy, future plans and means of further boosting the airline's performance.

According to Mr. Balgez, the successes of 1992 were made possible due to the intensive marketing activities along the RJ routes and through offices around the world.

In 1992, RJ added Jakarta, Berlin, Aden and Athens to its

pany hopes to achieve an increase of 12 per cent in passenger load and 35 per cent in cargoes over the 1992 figures.

In the coming year, RJ will concentrate its services on three Boeing 707 planes to boost its air freight operations around the world with particular focus on exporting Jordanian national goods, Mr. Balgez said.

RJ will operate a fleet of 16 planes which include the Tristar 500, Airbus 310 and 320 and the Boeing 727 and 707.

Operations for 1993 will continue with the maintenance and other services at its workshops at the Queen Alia International Airport.

At present, RJ planes fly to 43 cities in 33 countries. The company has 117 offices around the world stretching from Australia to Los Angeles, Mr. Balgez said.

According to a press release Monday the RJ chief was expected to present certificates of merit to veteran staff members and shields to outstanding RJ employees during a special ceremony to be organised at the Palace of Culture of Al Hussein Youth City.

Arab writers' conference tackles... democracy and media

By Masa Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Television programmes aimed at children in the Arab world were heavily criticised Monday at a seminar held under the auspices of the Arab Writers Conference.

Children's programmes are too few and they are of "bad quality" said Dr. Emad Zaki from the National Association for the Education of the Child. "This is due to weak planning, unqualified staff, and small budgets to support programmes that develop the child's mind."

Dr. Zaki stressed that the influence of TV and radio on society is undisputable, and children are the most affected by it. It is important that programmes for children aim to develop the child's personality because today's children are tomorrow's adults and society depends on them, he said.

TV and radio programmes should motivate children and provide them with cultural and scientific knowledge to enable them to face the cultural threat from the West and deal with the modern technological world, he continued.

The seminar entitled "Science Fiction and its Effect on the Formulation of the Child's Mind" began on Sunday. "The Child's imagination" was discussed yesterday in terms of what is offered by the media to the child

and how child's mind should be developed. A paper was presented by Mahmoud El Rajby and Rawdah Al Hudhud on children's imagination writing for children which aim to develop this faculty. Another paper was presented by Safa Sankour from Iraq about science fiction on TV.

Dr. Zaki Monday said that more Arabic programmes should be produced which emphasise Arabic culture, science and amusement so as to be able to compete with foreign productions which have great influence on the Arab children of today. "More attention should be paid to the child to prepare him to contribute to the development process as a mature member in the future," Dr. Zaki said.

The seminar will focus Tuesday on the future of children's literature within the Arab Writers' Union.

Landslide hits crops

SALT (Petra) — Vast areas of agricultural lands in Al Arida area in the Balqa Governorate were destroyed this week as a result of a landslide. Owners of the lands said the problem started last February when the King Talal Dam, the largest dam in Jordan, was filled with more than 80 million cubic metres of water, nearing its full capacity.

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — During the second day of the Eighteenth Arab Writers Conference, support for democracy and the adoption of a strong unified media policy were among the hot issues tackled in the morning sessions Monday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

"The best way to achieve development in the Arab society must, above all, be based on democracy, social justice and freedom," said Dr. Mas'oud Daher, secretary general of the Lebanese Writers Union, in his lecture on possible ways of progress in modern Arab society. "There has to be an equilibrium between the role of private (media) institutions on the one hand and the role of state institutions on the other."

Dr. Daher explained that as a result of long-lasting colonialism, which Arab states have endured over the past two centuries, Arab states have become institutions of repression. "Misinterpretation of legitimacy has led the authoritative Arab state to use violent means for social order," he said. "We must get out of the deadlock in which we are living now that is produced by the dominance of bureaucracy which stood against the progress of social institutions," he said.

The importance of the role of the media in achieving progress was stressed by the Jordanian writer Issam Hammad. The need

for a qualitative rather than quantitative kind of information, he said, should be considered as the cornerstone of the media policy that we should adopt.

"What we lack is credibility and that is because there is no independent, national and patriotic informative plans," Mr. Hammad said. "Most of the material published in the local media is imported. In addition to the content that is void of any meaning and the absence of political and scientific awareness."

Mr. Hammad called for the adoption of a more credible media policy which may reinforce the humanitarian dimension and bring confidence at home and abroad. In the Arab Writers Charter of Honour that has been drawn up by the Arab writers committee, a call was launched for a commitment to the following principles:

- Freedom, equality and the respect of public freedom as well as the insistence upon the freedom of expression should be sought.
- A commitment to the Islamic Arab culture in all dimensions.
- The rejection of all policies of cultural dependence.
- The rejection of cultural dependency on politics.
- The consideration of dictatorship as a backward political status that does not match with Arabic values and Islamic principles and constitutes one of the basic obstacles to the scientific, social and economic regression.
- Arab-Zionist conflict is a dispute over existence rather than a dispute over borders. Arab writers should not normalise cultural relations with the Israelis.

Aqaba expects tourist boom

By Ella Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities will launch a wide scale promotional programme through the media to encourage local tourism attention focused on the port of Aqaba.

Ministry Secretary General Atallah told the Jordan Times that the programme was designed to encourage Jordanians at the winter resort not only on the main public holidays but throughout the year.

During the winter, Mr. Atallah said, the flow of tourists to Jordan in the 1992 period as a whole has recovered from the consequences of the

Gulf War when the tourism industry especially in Aqaba was seriously hit.

The ministry expects 1993 to be a boom year for tourism in Jordan with an expected 15 per cent increase in the volume of tourists who came during 1992, Mr. Atallah predicted. He added that as of the coming year large groups of tourists will be coming to Aqaba during winter, but he noted that the port city had been relatively quiet over the past three months.

Asked about the Finnish groups who traditionally come to Aqaba in winter time, Mr. Atallah said that the economic recession in Finland caused a decrease in the numbers of Finnish tourists arriving in Aqaba compared to

the past two years. He also noted that some tourists coming from Europe on package tours, that include Egypt as well as Jordan, did not come in the past few months due to the continuing attacks on tourists in Egypt.

Mr. Atallah said that tourist offices in Jordan had been requested to encourage tourists to spend more time in Amman, Jerash, Monte Nebo and other attractions in addition to Aqaba.

Ministry of Tourism officials said that tourism in 1990 accounted for 10 per cent of Jordan's Gross National Product and was heading for record levels before the Gulf Crisis. Mr. Atallah said the ministry's wide ranging campaign in Europe, was reviving the market lost.



Aqaba; hopes are high that tourists will return

Arabyat receives pharmacist delegation and Lebanese MP

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat received at Parliament Monday a delegation representing the Arab Pharmacists Association. The delegation, headed by Dr. Arabyat on legal impediments to pharmacists in Jordan. The House Speaker stressed the importance of cooperation between legislative authority and the various sectors of

the society. Dr. Arabyat also received Mohammad Habib Sadeq, a visiting member of the Lebanese Parliament, who conveyed to him the congratulations of the Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament Nabih Barre on his re-election. The meeting reviewed parliamentary ties between Jordan and Lebanon.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- An exhibition of ceramics by the Jordanian artist Mahmoud Taha at Alka Art Gallery.
- Exhibition of paintings by Hind Nasser at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of paintings by painter Ufemia Rizk at Yarmouk University.
- Exhibition of paintings by Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.
- Sculpture exhibition by Mona Saudi at Al Balka Art Gallery in Al Fuhis.
- Exhibition of weaving and ceramics, at the Philadelphia Hotel from 9:30 a.m. till 7:30.
- Exhibition of paintings and silkscreen by three artists from Gaza: Fayez Al Hasan, Kamel Al Mughamsi and Laila Shawa at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

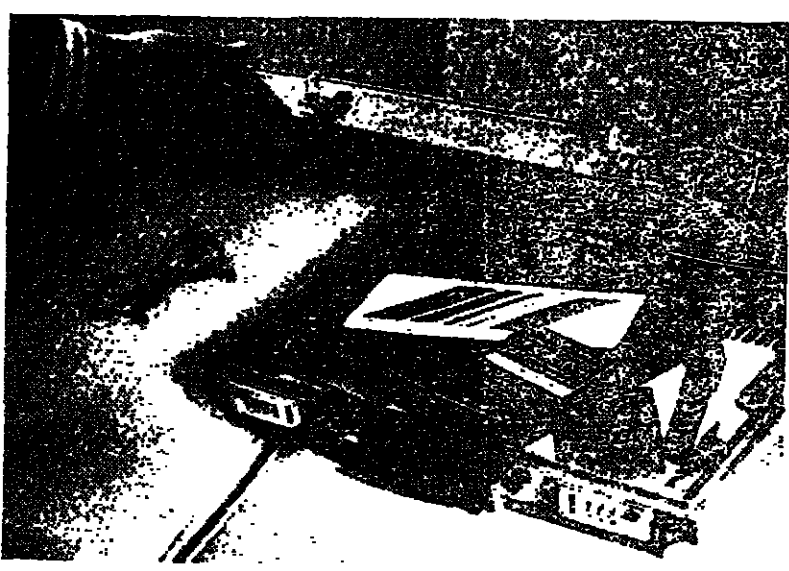
Under the patronage of H. R. H. Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid The Salt Handicraft Training Centre

Invites you to the exhibition of Weavings and Ceramics 12-15/1992 from 9:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the Philadelphia Hotel - Amman.



The Salt Handicraft Training Centre is a project sponsored by the Jordanian and the Italian governments under a joint technical operation agreement. The project is implemented by Noor Al Hussein Foundation, The Salt Development Corporation and JTECNO, Roma

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Jordan Times

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One sure way to advance peace

ISRAELI HEALTH Minister Haim Ramon summed it up well Sunday when he diagnosed the recent upsurge in violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as the price of continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories. Since there is agreement on the real reasons for accelerating the loss of life on both sides of the fence, there should also be consensus on the prescription for ending the Palestinian revolution against Israel, the intifada, now into its sixth year.

Arabs do not gloat over the daily killings that occur in the occupied Arab lands nor do they draw comfort from them. Taking the life of a Palestinian or an Israeli is a two-edged sword that cuts both ways into the peace process that all the parties are desperately trying to promote and nurture. The killings are bound to unleash emotions in both camps, that are detrimental to the spirit of hope that the ongoing peace talks kindle. At a time when all parties are making daring efforts to create a culture for peace, the perpetuation of occupation will only lead to violence and counter-violence which in turn can only contribute to the creation of a psychology for war and not peace.

Obviously the most effective way to reverse the tide of surging violence is to speed up the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians and show some results that can uplift the prospects of peace between them on the basis of justice and legitimacy. It goes without saying that the lack, so far, of progress in the Palestinian-Israeli bilateral peace talks has contributed to the rise in tension in the area. It is also axiomatic that slow or non-advancement in the peace negotiations between the two offers the forces of extremism on both sides the opportunities to derail the entire process.

It so happens that Arab and Israeli radicals share an obvious commonality of interests and objectives that overlap in their mutual distrust of the U.S.-brokered peace initiative. Israeli occupying authorities have recently increased their military vigilance, augmented their military grip over the West Bank and Gaza Strip and heightened their oppression of the people instead of applying a more enlightened approach. This is where they have gone wrong and got themselves bogged down in self-defeating tactics. One operational way to reduce tension in the occupied territories has already been advanced by some Israeli officials including Health Minister Ramon, of the Labour Party, and Energy Minister Amnon Rubinstein, of the left-wing Meretz alliance, namely, to affect a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip prior to the realisation of a permanent agreement on the future of the area. Such a confidence-building measure would indeed go a long way to bolster conviction in the seriousness and viability of the Israeli-Palestinian peace parley. This could be one of the most effective ways to halt the cycle of violence in the occupied Arab territories. A similar military withdrawal from the West Bank would also fortify the faith in Israel's peaceful intentions.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WHILE IT continues to display its intransigence at the peace negotiations, Israel is escalating its terrorist activities against the Palestinian people in an unprecedented manner, said Al-Dustour Arabic daily Monday. The paper said that the two aspects of Israel's behaviour underline the fact that its leaders from the Likud or Labour have no intention of reaching any peaceful settlement with the Arabs and are determined to perpetuate their occupation of Arab lands. Israel's terrorist campaigns over the past few days reached very dangerous proportions, with its troops adopting various forms of repression against the Palestinian Arabs who, in return, are stepping up their fight for freedom and adopting new methods to achieve that goal, the daily pointed out. The Palestinians are justified to employ any method at their disposal in order to achieve their national aspirations and as the years go by they are manifesting more determination and resolve to pursue the struggle to the end, the paper noted. For their part, the Israelis are resorting to terrorism as a desperate and final attempt to crush the intifada which has lasted for five years and is continuing with a greater force than ever before, added the daily. A COLUMNIST in Al-Rai daily Monday described French President Francois Mitterrand to Jordan as a gain for the Arabs and their Palestinian cause and that it dealt a hard blow to the Arab regimes aligned behind the United States in its aggression on Iraq. Fahd Al-Faraj said that the president's visit was successful as it established the first step towards rebuilding Franco-Arab relations on solid ground. France, as a major world power, had been an ally of the Arabs, providing them with political, technological and economic assistance in the 1960s and 1970s, but it failed to rise up to the challenge represented in the Gulf crisis and chose to join Washington, said the writer. As a result of such a policy, Paris lost the Gulf and the rest of its influence in the Arab World, he added. But it seems that France is now reassessing its policies and has decided to enter into the Arab World by means of the Middle East issue, with particular attention to the Palestinian problem which serves as a key for the whole region, the writer pointed out. Indeed, the president showed firmness in the face of Israeli leaders when he voiced support for the rights of the Palestinian people to a homeland and an independent state and in his call on Israel to talk with the PLO, said the writer.

A generation in limbo

Intifada's toll on Palestinian schooling

By David Hoffman

BEITUNIA, West Bank — The English textbook has lost its cover, and the pages are smudged and heavily underlined, but it has not lost its meaning for Akram Rahman.

The textbook is his passport out of the lost years. Mr. Rahman, a 17-year-old from this West Bank crossroads, has spent his adolescence in the crucible of the Palestinian intifada, the uprising against Israeli occupation. He threw stones at Israelis and served 10 months in prison. He is wise to the ways of the uprising. But he has stumbled in school. It is a grade behind his classmates and is desperately trying to regain his footing.

"I lost a year," he said quietly. "Now I am trying to catch up." Five years after the intifada broke out, Mr. Rahman's battered textbook is a metaphor for consequences of the revolt not yet seen or widely understood. The intifada has left enduring scars on a young generation of both Palestinians and Israelis, and each group is just beginning to grasp how deep and lasting they are.

Since the outbreak of the revolt against Israeli rule on Dec. 9, 1987, the rebellion has splintered.

What began as a mass movement of stone-throwing demonstrations and civil disobedience designed to shake off the Israeli occupation has evolved in many directions. It is now a deadly war between armed Palestinian bands and Israeli troops.

At the same time, the intifada is a grinding day-to-day contest with Israelis over land and settlements. Mass demonstrations are fanned into popular explosions, but the flare-ups are far less frequent than they once were. There are still commercial strikes, but many merchants and families yearn now for normalcy.

In Palestinian villages like Beitunia, or in densely populated Gaza City, or in middle-class Ramallah, family conversations often turn to the fallout from a disaster in education and discipline. Parents and educators worry about a generation of boys and girls who were just children five years ago but are now on the cusp of adulthood.

The intifada brought extensive school closures by the Israeli authorities, from kindergarten to college classrooms, and for five years each side has blamed the other for the shut-downs. The Israelis said the schools had be-

come hotbeds of the revolt. The Palestinians complained that the closings were a particularly damaging form of collective punishment.

Schools in the West Bank were closed for nearly eight months in 1988 and for six more months in early 1989. Colleges and universities were shut for several years. The schools began to reopen in 1989, although most of the colleges did not reopen until this year, and the Israeli authorities are still closing some schools in response to riots and demonstrations.

The extent of the education problem is impossible to measure. Test scores are unreliable, in part due to massive cheating; the impact of frequent school closings is difficult to judge; future attitudes and motivations are still intertwined with the emotions of the intifada itself.

The result of this gash in Palestinian society may be as profound as the political and violent aspects of the revolt, according to educators, businessmen and others in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. They say that without better schooling, without jobs, the dream of independence — the goal of the intifa-

da in the first place — will remain hollow and unfulfilled.

"I believe the injury we received in education is deeper than the injury in the hand by a bullet," said Anton Sansour, executive vice president of Bethlehem University. "It will take a long time to recover."

"If you look at the mentality of our kids now, they are not as well prepared," he said. "The schools were closed a long time. They lost their lives as children. They are mature in years, but not in thinking."

But there are still deeper causes for the Palestinians' current predicament. The intifada was so spontaneous that few knew where it would lead, and Palestinian social leaders were slow to react. When they finally began to look for ways to compensate, it was too late.

The students too have been through a trial by fire. In recent interviews, a group of 16- and 17-year-olds all offered strikingly parallel memories of the last five years, a period marked not by soccer games and other youthful pursuits, but by demonstrations, prison terms and disruption.

Mr. Rahman, the seventh of nine children in his family, said

the world suddenly turned upside down the day after a truck accident in the Gaza Strip touched off the first demonstrations.

"We were in the school, and we heard about the incident in Gaza, and they started to protest," he said. "We used to play football with friends in the street. When it started, and the soldiers came and the curfews, our parents started to be very cautious of our movements outside the house. They were afraid something else would hurt us. All the routines were interrupted. Instead of seeing each other in playing we saw each other in demonstrations."

Mr. Rahman was arrested in January 1991, accused of throwing stones near the neighbourhood school. He was sentenced to 10 months in prison and fined about \$700. He served his time in Ketziot, the detention centre Israel set up in the Negev Desert. There, in a special section for juveniles, Mr. Rahman studied not school texts but the intifada lessons offered by the other prisoners.

"All my experience, I acquired in Ketziot," he said. "We learned a lot about the aims of the enemy. We knew the Israeli aims were to

evacuate the people from the land, to get Palestinian collaborators. We learned deal with such problems as struggling against an enemy."

Last year, feeling pressure from parents, da-leadership began by the school disrupting that masked the factional rivalries — be from the schools. At time, the past year in wave of introspection, course of the uprising, from parents who where it has left the hope and power of the

"My children were in the intifada; they are anxious, confused," said dan, 47. May's father they have six to seven, studying a day to catch they have lost, but they a lot of skills. And another problem; it is general. They are getting, and paranoid, and any feeling paranoid, his can not be 100 per cent.

His fondest wish for ter, he said, is to send seas — Washington

Rabin appears convinced Israel can achieve security through peace

By Marie Colvin

TEL AVIV — For any other Israeli prime minister except Yitzhak Rabin it would have been blasphemy. Pulling on one of the Kent cigarettes he chain-smokes, he irritably dismissed any idea that he would negotiate with Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), but he did indicate that other PLO officials were pragmatists with whom Israel could eventually do business.

Although the prime minister stopped short of saying he would talk to the PLO, his comments to The Sunday Times will anger the Israeli right, which still sees the PLO as an organisation dedicated to driving the Jews out of Israel, in spite of its decision four years ago to recognise the Jewish state and renounce terrorism.

Mr. Rabin has continued the policy of his predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir, in refusing to allow members of the PLO to participate in peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, Israel, though, does turn a blind eye when Palestinians involved in the negotiations openly travel to Tunis to consult the PLO.

But last week Mr. Rabin appeared to be reaching out to those in the organisation he regards as more moderate than Mr. Arafat. "If we say we will negotiate with Arafat, there is no chance whatsoever that there will be an agreement because he will stress what will serve him, not the Palestinians in the territories," he said.

"For the first time, the Palestinians of the territories are in the lead of the struggle of the Palestinians. I believe that most of them are much more pragmatic than Arafat. Arafat aspires to everything or nothing. This is not the way of thinking of many Palestinians in the territories, and I believe, of some Palestinians in Tunis." (Tunis is the headquarters of the PLO, which is Israeli shorthand for the organisation's leadership).

Mr. Rabin's remarks, on the eve of his visit to London this week, follow a growing trend in

Israel towards ending the demonstration of the PLO. The Knesset passed the first reading of a controversial bill last week that would rescind a law that makes a prison sentence mandatory for Israeli citizens who meet members of the PLO. In another development, Israeli newspapers have, for the first time in modern history, printed interviews with Mr. Arafat by Israeli journalists who travelled to Tunis.

Mr. Rabin is now pushing for a settlement that would include a five-year interim period during which Palestinians would control their own affairs in Palestinian-owned areas of the West Bank and Gaza which make up about

62 per cent of the land, with shared Israeli-Arab authority over empty land, about 30 per cent. Israel would retain control of the Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. After three years, Israel and the Palestinians would sit down to discuss a permanent solution that would involve Israeli withdrawal from occupied land.

Palestinians say the proposal falls short of the minimum they can accept, but Mr. Rabin plans to stand firm. "What the Palestinians must realise is that the interim agreement gives them what they never have been offered by any of the countries in control of the territories in which

they live. Jordan and Egypt did not offer them what we are offering when they were in the West Bank and Gaza," he said.

Mr. Rabin denies that Israel will ever agree to an independent Palestinian state, although Palestinians have made it clear they will settle for nothing less. "I believe there will be some sort of Palestinian entity that they feel is their own," Mr. Rabin said. "There are many options that today might look like a dream. Perhaps a complex of confederation with Israel, the Palestinians and Jordan. Why not?"

Mr. Rabin is a blunt speaker with a heroic military past and no interest in diplomatic niceties; he

did not even say hello when I met him. He just nodded and sat down behind his desk in the defence ministry. He kept the defence portfolio when Labour defeated the right-wing Likud government of Shamir in June.

In a western country, Mr. Rabin, talking ponderously in a deep, gravelly voice, would be unelectable. During television appearances he looks desperate to get off camera for a cigarette. Much of his awkwardness, friends say, comes from the shyness he feels in spite of almost 50 years in the public eye.

But his bluntness is part of his appeal to Israelis, who pride

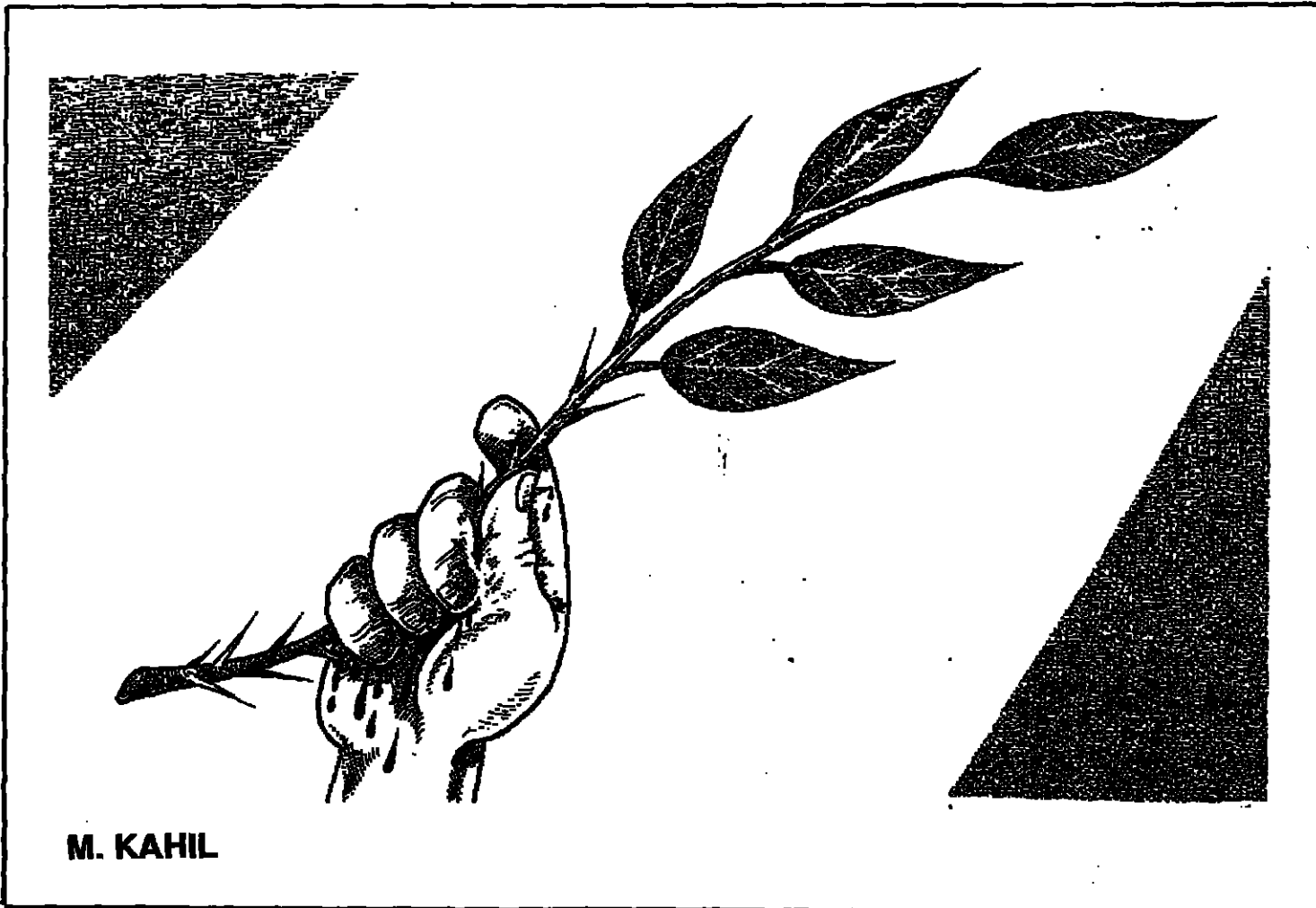
themselves on their pragmatism. When he became prime minister in 1974 he was the first Jew born in Israel to take office. He was born in Poland, to committed Zionists, and studied agronomy at a university where he interfered with his farm.

It was his military record as a battalion commander in the 1948 war that gave Israel the chief of staff in the war to elect him on his own territory for his belief that any deal will ensure their security. Mr. Rabin's borders should be defined by sound strategy, Bible. He has no idea that he is undoubtedly the most popular and authoritative politician in Israel.

After five months in government has come a slowly in Arab-Israeli negotiations which rest Monday in Washington. Rabin's caution seems, keeping with the general Israeli mood, his change of heart. Shamir's inflexibility has an air of optimism. Israel, tired of the uprising in the occupied territories and living under the perception as a constant threat from Arab neighbours.

Despite his military ground, Mr. Rabin appears convinced that Israel can achieve security through peace rather than war. His strategy is an accommodation with such as Syria in order to achieve peace with no option accept what they are offering.

"The core of the issue is Israel's elimination. We have not had war, longest period in our history directly as a result of a treaty between Egypt," he said. "Peace with Syria, it is for all practical purposes a classic Arab-Israeli war." — The Sunday Times



M. KAHIL

'Intifada is the ultimate weapon to end the occupation'

by Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In the shadow of the youth and women who lead the 5-year-old intifada, stand men of the revolution which have taken a back seat to the child-led rebellion.

Having fought a paramilitary battle from outside their homeland for decades, they are now entrusted with the upkeep of the battle within the occupied territories.

Zaki Abbas is one such man. In fact, he is "the" diaspora Palestinian in charge of the intifada. With his whereabouts mostly unknown, the soft-spoken Palestine Liberation Organisation Executive Committee member has one of the most sensitive and important portfolios of any Palestinian official in the diaspora.

His tone was serious and confident when he agreed to speak to the Jordan Times this week about

the future of the intifada, the peace process and the new U.S. administration.

Events in recent weeks have proven wrong the former Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who wrote an article entitled "The end of the intifada" in the Wall Street Journal last August.

Unabated unrest has brought about an exceptionally high casualty figure among both Israelis and Palestinians as intifada youth rushed through the fifth anniversary of the uprising this week. "The intifada will not end until liberty and freedom are achieved," said Mr. Zaki echoing Yasser Arafat's recent comments that the intifada will stay in place till statehood is won.

Mr. Zaki, a man in his early fifties, says the Palestinian people had no choice five years ago when the intifada began except to "rise up against the occupation or die a slow unnoticed death."

"The intifada has become the ultimate weapon to end the

occupation," he asserts. While beginning the intifada was a must for the Palestinians, so was joining the peace process, he says.

"All the Arab parties, including us, were afraid of losing yet some more," muses Mr. Zaki. "The Arab governments were afraid that the U.S. might impose economic sanctions like it did with Iraq and now Libya. We had no choice except to go along with America because we were the weaker party. We had one Arab ally — Iraq — and now it's gone," he adds.

"We are at the peace table to make sure that history records that we will not allow the imposition of any solution upon us; we will decide our own destiny."

He is aware that his destiny and that of many other Palestinians may be as martyrs. His predecessor, Khalil Al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), whose picture hangs on his office wall, was killed by an Israeli hit team at his house in Tunis in

1988. But Abbas Zaki refuses the notion that he has taken over Abu Jihad's portfolio.

"He was my superior, I am responsible for the intifada. Abu Jihad was a leader on a larger level," he says with respect.

Knowing that Israel has gone to great lengths to kill the diaspora head of the intifada in the past and continues to do everything to undermine the intifada now, Mr. Zaki says he is sure of Israel's intentions at the peace table.

Asked if he thinks the Israeli prime minister is serious about peace with the Palestinians he says: "Yes and no."

"Rabin made statements about the beginning of Palestinian self-government within six months of his taking power and yet we are nowhere near that goal." "Rabin wants peace for the Israelis — so when he says he wants peace he is not lying," Mr. Zaki says. As if repeating the same phrase for the one hundredth time he

says: "But don't forget it was Rabin who gave orders to break the bones of the stone-throwing kids in the streets. He was the one who ordered massive administrative detention and who allowed armed settlers to roam the occupied territories unabated."

Mr. Zaki is visibly frustrated with the Israeli attitude towards the Palestinians. He is also frustrated with the outgoing U.S. administration. "The Americans gave us assurances and never bothered to follow them up. As a result we are negotiating the interpretation of (Resolution) 242, the settlements and military withdrawal. All these issues should have been understood before we ever began talking. The Israelis are acting as if everything is negotiable, which is not the case."

But Mr. Zaki is not entirely pessimistic. Unlike many Arabs, he has hope that the Clinton administration will be better to

the Palestinians than the administration.

The Democrats are of the "people," he argues, thus more likely to look situation in a human perspective.

"The Democrats care the blacks, the homeless care about how much to pay care more about the person street and thus I think they care more about us than a Republican administration," he says.

The Republicans are "colonialists" in their attitude, said Mr. Zaki.

"Clinton is already talking out pulling the U.S. troops Somalia as soon as possible about his people. I don't know — maybe not, but my children

Features

Pressure mounts on Marines in Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

But Mr. Eagleburger said U.S. troops would try to remove the weapons of armed groups in Somalia and dismantle mines only in pursuit of their primary goal of feeding people. U.S. forces or other forces in the region would also eventually move to northern Somalia so that humanitarian relief could be transported to that region.

The United States has confirmed plans for a disarmament plan, but time frame and operational modalities of it are not clear, said U.S. spokesman Ian Macleod at the daily briefing of the United Nations in Somalia (UNOSOM).

Mr. Macleod said the policy at the moment was to remove large and heavy weapons and "technicals" — as some given to Somali battlewagons constructed from looted jeeps and heavy arms.

U.S. military sources said they had not yet received orders to go beyond the policing of food convoys.

"If our mission has changed, I don't know about it yet. That would come from Central Command in Tampa, Florida," said military spokesman Colonel Fred Peck.

"If that comes to pass then we will

carry out the orders of the president," he said.

The original mandate for Operation Restore Hope, expected to number 38,000 soldiers drawn from some 20 countries, was merely that the troops should create a "secure environment" for humanitarian relief operations.

More troops and equipment flooded into the Horn of Africa country on Monday. But five days after an advance force of U.S. Marines stormed Mogadishu's beaches and took control of the key port and airport, gunfire still held sway in much of the land.

About 100 troops from Saudi Arabia, the first from another Muslim country, landed on Sunday. Some 600 more are due to arrive in the next few days.

The task force now numbers over 4,000. An advance party of 120 Belgians said they expected to be deployed in the main southern port of Kismayu at the start of next week, but had not yet received the "green light" from the American command.

A semblance of normality has returned to some of the capital. The port, once one of the most lethal corners of the city, is now secure.

A second U.S. supply docked Mon-

Israel mounts massive search

(Continued from page 1)

day and a third was lying offshore. In Mogadishu, a ceasefire announced by Gen. Aideed and the country's other main warlord, Ali Mahdi Mohammad, failed to take hold. It was supposed to have started Sunday, but both warlords have acknowledged they do not have full control of their forces in the capital — much less in the interior.

Such a ceasefire would not include freelance gunmen who looted much of the food aid before the Marines arrived and since have increasingly turned to robbing foreign aid workers and journalists.

In one case, a Marine patrol seized an assault rifle from a Somali then was ordered to hand it back because the man claimed he needed it for self-defense. Two hours later, the man used the gun to rob a Swedish photographer.

Yemeni premier said to resign after riots

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Jefri said. Thirteen people were killed in four days of protests in several cities including the capital Sanaa. The riots died down Sunday.

The riots, sparked by 100 per cent annual inflation and widespread unemployment, plunged Yemen into its worst crisis since the former South and the North merged in 1990.

Another opposition source said Mr. Attas, a member of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), resigned because "he did not want to shoulder the responsibility for the recent riots and acts of violence."

The two ruling parties, the GPC and the YSP, had been expected to issue a joint state-

Yemeni premier said to resign after riots

(Continued from page 1)

ment Sunday, but only a GPC communique was read on Sanaa Television.

It said the riots were a "grave sign of plans that enemy elements harbour against the homeland, unity and democracy, which should be confronted by all the people."

Mr. Baidh, a YSP member and formerly president of South Yemen, has gone into seclusion on three previous occasions since the countries merged.

He stayed at home for almost three months until November in protest against a deteriorating security situation in Yemen after a series of explosions and assassination attempts which targeted several YSP leaders.

Yemeni premier said to resign after riots

(Continued from page 1)

Both attacks, the assailants fired from a moving car.

In the West Bank last Friday, a fundamentalist held out for several hours against Israeli forces besieging his house and killed a border policeman before being shot to death.

Hamas, in a separate statement Monday, urged "all Islamic and nationalistic Palestinian forces to unite ranks and escalate Islamic jihad (holy war) operations against the enemy to turn our usurped land into a raging volcano that burns the Zionist invaders."

It said Israel had been shaken by the seizure of the soldier. "Our mean Zionist enemy is currently enduring critical moments and is becoming hysterical after the seizure of the Zionist soldier."

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(Continued from page 1)

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U.S. denies 'strategic' goals in Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

"We would be trained to assume responsibility for security in Somalia and 'to ensure that the countries which will stay behind... in properly located places' after the American contingent is withdrawn."

The U.S. has no plan to "alter the balance of political power" in Somalia, he said in answer to a question in Washington viewed the battle for power among the various groups in the country.

Ideally, he said, there should be a dual reconciliation conference ended by all parties and groups to set out the future of their country. groundwork for such a gathering being laid, starting with a meeting between the two main warlords, self-styled "interim President" Ali Mahdi Muhammad and rival Mohammed Ali Aideed, last Friday in Mogadishu, he noted.

"The Somali people themselves are to decide their future," he said, adding that Washington believed that restoration of the "indigenous, traditional clan-based structure" would be one of the basic elements in ensuring about security and stability in Somalia.

The ambassador-at-large rejected accusations between Somalia and former Yugoslavia, saying that there was a clear situation of conflict among the ethnic communities of the lines which leaves little room for a heavy drive similar to that of the war in Africa.

At the same time, he also defended Washington against charges of apathy toward the plight of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina who find themselves outnumbered and overpowered by the heavily armed Serbian army.

He said most of the U.N. reports of human rights violations and atrocities committed against the Bosnians by Serbs were compiled and sent to world body by the State Department.

Washington has extended assistance worth \$100 million to the victims of the conflict in the Balkans, he said.

It was a different military situation in Somalia, where there is no mixed resistance to the U.N. force, he noted, implying that the primary concern of Washington was the safety of its own soldiers something that could be in peril if there were to be sent to contain the riot in the former Yugoslav republic.

Mr. Natsios's comments countered "gas sired by several groups in Somalia and elsewhere that Washington was seeking to gain a firm foothold in the Horn of Africa to closely monitor the region's countries, particularly Sudan and Yemen, which he perceived to consider hostile policies, and to protect strategic lines which carry Middle Eastern oil to the West."

He official, a close confidant of President George Bush and perhaps most senior American policymak-

U.S. denies 'strategic' goals in Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

er on East Africa, appeared to take an indirect jab at Arab and Islamic countries by revealing that none of them was willing to take the lead in deploying an armed force in Somalia to ensure humanitarian supplies reached the needy.

"Our ambassadors went around, consulting the Arab and Islamic countries, including those in the Middle East, and none of them said they could do it by themselves... in any large numbers to make a difference," he said. "They were waiting for us to take the lead and when we did they wanted to join in."

Over 11,000 American soldiers of an expected contingent of 28,000 have already arrived in Somalia. At least seven Muslim countries have either sent or have announced their intention to contribute to the U.N.-authorized force.

Mr. Natsios said that total disarming of the thousands of gunmen who used to plunder supplies and extort relief officials in Somalia was "difficult" and not among the objective of the force.

He said "a lot of weapons" was present at the Ethiopian-Somalia border left behind by the army of the ousted Addis Ababa regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam and that these were being sold to Somalis. And, he added, the government which replaced the Mengistu regime — which is "trying its best" to bring about security and stability to Somalia — had no control over the situation.

"We don't think it is possible or practical to disarm every man who has a gun in Somalia... a country of nomadic traditions," he said. But "there is a small number of large weapons... tanks and artillery pieces" in the hands of Somali gunmen and the American soldiers in the country would seek to seize them.

Asked whether there were any "secret" details of the U.N. mandate for the use of force if necessary in Somalia, Mr. Natsios said the timing of the withdrawal of forces and data related to military strategies to deal with possible situations of conflict with local forces would remain away from the public eye.

By and large, he said, most countries in Africa and elsewhere have welcomed the American initiative in Somalia after the U.N. Security Council authorized it "without opposition" from any member state.

Mr. Natsios noted that President-elect Bill Clinton had "fully endorsed" President Bush's decision to take the military lead in Somalia and had in fact urged "more aggressive action."

The American official called on the Arab and Islamic countries which have enough resources to contribute to the food relief effort in Somalia. He said it was estimated that 600,000 tonnes of food were needed to feed the Somali people in 1993.

The U.S. is contributing 175,000 tonnes while Europe is sending "a little bit more."

"We are two-thirds of the way," he said, urging for contributions to be channelled through the World Food Programme and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Hamas

(Continued from page 1)

In July, Hamas, joining forces with four PLO parties and five non-PLO groups, formed an anti-peace talks Palestinian coalition, formally known as the Damascus 10, and has lately stepped up anti-Israeli operations within the occupied territories.

The group's aim, says Amman-based spokesman Mohammed Nazzari, is to make life impossible for the Israelis in the occupied territories.

Military operations, such as the one in which two Israeli soldiers were killed three days ago in Gaza, are what Hamas promised two months ago when it outlined a stepped-up military campaign.

"The military battle is inside the 1967 territories and will be carried out by Hamas and other members of the Damascus 10," Mr. Nazzari told the Jordan Times last week. "Some military operations," he said, "will continue from outside — from south Lebanon," he added, evidently referring to Hizbullah operations against Israel.

"This way we put pressure (on Israel) from both inside and outside, this is a war — a war of liberation," said Mr. Nazzari at his Amman office.

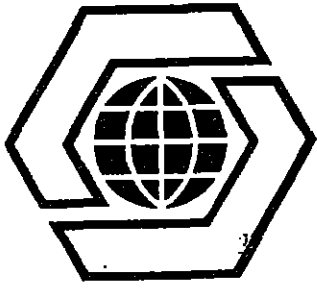
Dr. Nazzari last week ruled out "operations" inside Israel itself similar to Sunday's kidnapping of Sergeant Nassim Taledano which took place in Lod, in the heart of British-mandated Palestine.

"We will not carry out military operations (in 1948-Palestine) at this stage. Our influence has grown substantially among the so-called Israeli Arabs but the time is not right yet for them to get really involved in the struggle on the military level," Mr. Nazzari said.

"We are awaiting a response from the Israelis," said Mr. Nazzari late Monday. "If the peace talks can't convince the Israelis that they should withdraw then maybe we can convince them by other means," he said.

Asked if he believed that the Israelis have reacted to the incident by withdrawing from the occupied territories, the Hamas spokesman said, "No. but they will want to move now than ever before."

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Stich, the other German, comes back

MUNICH (AP) — Michael Stich stopped being just the "other German" when he won Wimbledon in 1991. For a time, Stich even stood higher than German idol Boris Becker in world rankings.

But 1992 was not a gentle year for Stich. It was a year that saw him win only one tournament. His best records in Grand Slam events were two quarterfinals.

On Sunday, Stich shook off the slump to cap a remarkable week by beating Michael Chang 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 for \$2 million title at the Grand Slam Cup.

Stich finishes the year ranked 15th in the world, but his four victories in the Grand Slam Cup were all in the top 10.

"It was a good finish to the year and I hope it will be a good start to the next," Stich said.

"It means more to me to beat four top 10 players and win the tournament than the money I got," Stich said.

His victories here also included Stefan Edberg, Richard Krajicek and Pete Sampras.

Stich, who ranked as high as No. 3 after winning Wimbledon, finished 1991 as No. 4.

The world rankings will not change after the Munich tournament, because it is not run by the ATP, which puts out computer rankings.

Stich won the title in the city where he was based until recently, when he moved his residence to Austria. His wife of two months, Jessica, is acting in a television series being shot near Salzburg.

For the sixth-ranked Chang, it was the third year of non-financial frustration at the Grand Slam Cup.

The American, the only player to play in all three editions of the richest tournament in the world, ended up as runner up for the second time in a row.

The compensation was adequate, however. The \$1 million check given to the loser brought his earnings for three tournaments to \$2,450,000.

"I don't feel that bad actually, I don't feel sorry," Chang said.

"It was one of those days, a tough day at the office," he said.

Stich also said it was one of those days.

But for him it was "one of those days when everything worked well."

"He didn't seem to be missing a whole lot, and he was really able to put his whole game together," Chang said.

The biggest pay day of Stich's career lasted two hours and seven minutes.

Both players declined to say if any part of their huge earnings will go to charity.

Chang said part of his money every year goes to charity, "but I don't like to announce it with trumpets."

The tournament is the richest in the world and pays \$6 million in prize money.

"If the money is there, you can't blame anyone for taking it," Stich said.

Stich was the first non-American to win the title here.

His victory was the second German triumph in a big season-ending event.

Becker, who has never played in the Grand Slam Cup, won the ATP tour world championship last month in Frankfurt.

Grand Slam Cup suffering teething troubles

Even at the age of three, the \$6 million Grand Slam Cup is still suffering teething troubles.

The richest tournament in tennis, launched in 1990, struggled to get going in its first two years because of problems with stars who refused to play and bad publicity over the astronomical prize money on offer.

This year's third round, won by Germany's former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich, had more of a swagger with a top-class field but even so it was not entirely steady on its feet.

The problem was the Munich indoor court's surface — it was far too fast for entertaining tennis.

The year-ending tournament, which paid out two million dollars to Stich is billed as a contest for the best 16 performers from the four Grand Slams — Wimbledon and the French, U.S. and Australian Opens.

But the speedy court provided little hope for players whose game is best suited to the slower clay of the French Open.



Michael Stich pocketed \$2m — the biggest paycheck of his career — at the Grand Slam Cup

Many of the matches in Munich were deprived of entertaining rallies as the players struggled to deal with the speed of the surface. Even big servers like Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic, whose game is built on pace, complained.

"The court is too fast to enjoy playing here," Ivanisevic said. "You just have to wait for the match to finish."

The Cup's chief organizer Axel Meyer-Woelken said he hoped to introduce a slower court for next year's tournament.

The tournament, which even pays out \$50,000 to its reserve players, who do not hit a ball in public and \$100,000 to first-round losers, has been controversial since the start. American veteran John McEnroe said two years ago it was turning the players into "money whores."

McEnroe and compatriot Andre Agassi, who refused to play in the first year, decided to attend this year.

Many believe organizers need to look to an earlier date in the calendar when players are less tired from their year's efforts and more motivated for a Grand Slam showdown, possibly in October soon after the end of the U.S. Open, the last Grand Slam of the year.

The Grand Slam Cup may then live up to its title and quash critics who accuse it of being just an end-of-season exhibition packed with bumper pre-Christmas presents.

EUROPEAN SOCCER ROUNDUP

Liverpool down Blackburn; AC Milan win again

LIVERPOOL (AP) — Substitute Mark Walters spoiled an emotional Anfield return for Kenny Dalglish by scoring twice in Liverpool's 2-1 Premier League victory over Blackburn Rovers.

Replacing striker Ronnie Rosenthal midway through the second half, Walters scored in the 77th and 84th minutes. Sandwiched in between a goal for Blackburn by England striker Alan Shearer, his 20th of the season.

The result means Blackburn failed to regain second place in the 22-team standings and remains fifth. Liverpool moves up one place to ninth.

Now Blackburn's manager, Dalglish returned to Liverpool for the first time since he quit as manager two years ago. In his 13-year connection with the Merseyside club as a player and a manager, Liverpool won eight league titles and gained three triumphs in the European Championships Cup.

The Liverpool fans in the 43,000 crowd warmly applauded Dalglish as he took his place on the manager's bench.

Then they roared on their Liverpool players, now under the guidance of a one-time Dalglish colleague, Graeme Souness.

Rovers' Mike Newell rattled the Liverpool crossbar in the 63rd minute but the home team, inspired by the wing play of fit again John Barnes, took the lead.

Walters found space on the left side of the Rovers' area and fired an 18-yard right foot shot that brushed the fingertips of Blackburn goalie Bobby Mimms on its way into the net.

Two minutes later, Blackburn levelled. United States international striker Roy Wegerle, who had come on as substitute, swung over a corner that Colin Hendry headed towards the Liverpool goal. Shearer collected the ball and fired a powerful, knee high shot into the Liverpool net.

Six minutes from the end, Barnes and Ian Rush sliced open the Rovers defence to feed Steve McManaman on the right. The England under-21 winger drove the ball into the danger area and Walters arrived at the far post to stab it home.

Porto thrash Guimaraes

Porto striker Domingos Oliveira scored twice in three minutes to give his team a 3-1 win at Guimaraes in the Portuguese Soccer Championship.

The victory increased Porto's lead and lifted spirits after their European Cup defeat by IFK Gothenburg Wednesday.

Porto now have 24 points, five more than second placed Sporting. Benfica, with a game in hand, Belenenses and Boavista lie joint third, six points behind the leader.

Porto defender Fernando Couto, back after several weeks absence due to injury, opened the scoring with a header in the 62nd minute after a corner by Romanian Ion Timofte.

Guimaraes' Brazilian defender Evandro Tanta equalised eight minutes later after a free kick in Dimas.

Bebeto powers Deportivo to 3-0 win

In Madrid, Jose Beбето. Deportivo Coruna's Brazilian striker, scored twice to lift his side to a 3-0 home win over Athletic Bilbao Sunday and keep them well in touch at the top of the Spanish Soccer League.

Bebeto grabbed his first with a curling right-footer direct from the corner in the 17th minute, 11 minutes after Adolfo Aldana had opened the scoring.

Bebeto made it 3-0 in the 47th and Athletic Bilbao, unbeaten in three matches, had no reply.

Deportivo are level with Barcelona on 21 points, but the champions have a match in hand after postponing this week's match until

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll, Flighter Four

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a very good evening to be in touch with close associates, and friends to find out just exactly how they feel about your relationship with them and how things can be improved...

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can start the day right by formulating confidently a new plan by which to have more of the things that can be beneficial to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think about what you can do to be more aware of your opportunities in the outside world and contact influential persons able to help you attain this goal.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Consider well how you can extend your activities to be more productive in the various work promises you have made and you make big advance now.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Both recreations and entertainments you have enjoyed before this and also new types of amusements can be made to bring you the happiness you desire.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Find out what the great expressions of your own clan are now and put into motion a course of action so you can bring these aims to them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) Communicating your long time ambitions as well as new desires to those in positions of influence bring you much progress, attaining them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can now make efforts and abilities so they have a far greater number of good things of life that you want.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is the time to do pretty much as you please and especially in some new and more tough less through which to express self.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take some time privately make an estimate then a course of action by which you can attain the good in your personality desire.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can now see close companions your wishes with a good chance to understand just what you mind and give you a boost right direction.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You begin this time by new stance by which to obtain various money and other interests that can bring you security.

Today's child: If your child born today she or he is highly effective outlook to get home of any kind and states with unique attitudes and observations, hedging or going around it. This trait is accomplished by any kind of personal criticism.

"The stars impel, they compel." What you make life is largely up to you.

THE BETTER HALF By HARRY HARRIS

"Do you realize that unclogging the toilet is the most romantic thing you've done this week?"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bobbie

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GOUCH
DAKEB
MORLAN
ENCUP

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumble: IDIOM GUMBO DILUTE ROBBIE
Answer: He was "dying" for a good book about the MURDER.

THE Daily Crossword by John Farnock

ACROSS
1 About, in dates
8 Censure
11 School of
14 Beauty
15 Aquatic plant
16 Shed
17 Relentless
19 Goof
20 Stiff hair
21 Loosen
22 Make happy
24 Lik
26 Bryant and Loos
27 Liberty
30 Seasoned
32 Prepares for action
33 Belgian Congo
34 Residue
37 Length
38 Child's pet
39 Before, prof.
40 Rep. adversary
41 Pine tree feature
42 Arabian chief
43 Decreases
45 At once
46 Literary device
48 Slender
49 Tableware
50 Europe's neighbor
52 German three
53 Govt. agency
54 Hair-haired
60 A Fleming
61 Barbed or barbed
62 Vacuous
63 Drs.
64 Apparent
65 Comply

DOWN
1 Tax
2 Unemployed
3 Beals
4 Grumbling
5 Also
6 Far-haired
7 Vicious
8 — time (never)
9 Slanderous
10 Fundamental
11 Andersen and
12 Main artery
13 Ponds
14 Barbarians
15 Busy April agry.
16 Elberse
17 Liberty
18 Cereal
19 Spotted dogs
20 Servants
21 Gourmands
23 Region
25 Printer's
26 Direction
27 Big sandwich
28 Lash attraction
29 Improving
30 Wire bonnet
31 Paragonian
32 Receptacle
33 Anjou
34 Fabric for
35 Sea urchin
36 Legal claims
37 Spindle
38 Check
39 Bring up
40 Sea urchin
41 Unscrupulous
42 Bluff case
43 Narrowly

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- Babel Supermarket
- Grand Supermarket
- Fouad Supermarket
- Zeidan Trading Agency
- Goodies
- Wadan Supermarket.

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Tel. 826298, Amman

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSHI
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OUT OF THE WAY!

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ Void
♥ 10 6 2
♦ A Q 8 7 3
♣ A K Q 9 3

EAST
♠ A K Q J 10 7 3
♥ K J
♦ J
♣ 10 6 4

SOUTH
♠ 6 5 4 2
♥ 5 4 3
♦ K 10 6 5 4
♣ 5

The bidding:
East South West North
1♠ Pass 1NT 3♠
4♣ 5♣ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♣

There's one ingredient in the makeup of the bridge expert that's impossible to teach—table feel. That's the ability to come up with an unusual bid or play based on what's going on across the green baize.

By partnership agreement, North's jump to three clubs showed a strong minor two-suiter. That made South's hand in support of diamonds very powerful, and South was not afraid to show the suit at the five-level. We admire East's courage in deciding to defend—at this vulnerability we would have bid five spades without a moment's hesitation.

When partner bids a suit, and you decide to lead something else, you had better be right. Therefore, we would have led an unimaginative spade and declarer would have had no problem making the contract with an overtrick.

Our intrepid West found the opening lead of the ace of hearts. Even so, we hazard a guess that many declarers we know would still make their contract. East would win the second heart and be unable to get to partner to cash the queen, and declarer would score the rest of the tricks in comfort.

Which leaves us to wonder: Was East jettisoning the king of hearts under the ace? Now West can continue with the queen of hearts and another, and East ruffs the third round of a suit for a one-trick set.

West, an expert who felt that a heart lead was right, or a fanatic who blundered onto the only way to defeat the contract?

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Agassi wins BBC award

LONDON (AP) — Andre Agassi was named top foreign personality of 1992 in the British Broadcasting Corporation's annual sports review Sunday after his surprise victory at the Wimbledon tennis championships. On probably his least favourite surface, grass, Agassi adapted his usually back-court game to beat big serving Croatian Goran Ivanisevic in the final after downing three time champion John McEnroe on the way there.

Robinson scores career-high 32 points

PORTLAND (AP) — Reserve forward Cliff Robinson scored a career high 32 points in Portland, Oregon, and personally outscored Washington 14-13 in the decisive third period as Trail Blazers overcame a poor start to beat the Bullets 117-98. The Bullets, with Harvey Grant scoring 24 of his career high 37 points in the first half, led 61-52 at halftime, but the Trail Blazers outscored Washington 34-13 in the third quarter and then started the fourth period with a 10-2 spurt for a 96-76 advantage. Robinson hit three consecutive shots before Drexler's layup capped a 12-0 run and gave Portland its first lead of the game, 64-63.

Peanuts

HERE YOU GO! I BROUGHT YOUR DINNER TEN MINUTES EARLY...

THEN I'D BETTER WAIT A BIT...

I MAY BE AWAKE, BUT MY STOMACH IS STILL ASLEEP.

Andy Capp

ANDY—FREDA TOLD ME TO TELL YOU THAT SHE CAN'T MAKE IT

WHAT?

NO WOMAN'S GOIN' TO STAND ME UP!!

Mutt'n' Jeff

JEFF, YOUR FACE MUST BE AWFULLY HOT UNDER THOSE WHISKERS! WHY DON'T YOU HAVE 'EM SHAVED OFF FOR THE SUMMER?

THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA, MUTT!—I THINK I WILL!

MY LITTLE PAL DOES ANYTHING I SAY!—HE'S A FUNNY LITTLE DUCK!

JEFF IS THAT YOU?

YEH, I WENT TO THE BARBER SCHOOL AND HAD MY WHISKERS SHAVED OFF.

GOOD!

AND THE STUDENT WHO SHAVED ME TOOK HIS FINAL EXAMINATION ON MY FACE.

—AND BOY, DID HE GRADUATE!

Economy

Financial Markets
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
US Dollar	1.5560	1.5593
Deutsche Mark	1.5780	1.5728
Swiss Franc	1.4070	1.4111
French Franc	5.3935	5.3525**
Japanese Yen	123.87	123.88
European Currency Unit	1.2451	1.2460**

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
US Dollar	3.43	3.43	3.50	3.87
Deutsche Mark	7.00	6.75	6.95	6.50
Swiss Franc	9.25	8.93	8.62	7.87
French Franc	6.06	6.18	5.81	5.50
Japanese Yen	10.50	10.37	9.75	9.25
European Currency Unit	3.87	3.68	3.65	3.62

Currency	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	335.15	6.60	Silver	3.73	.080

Currency	Bid	Offer
US Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Deutsche Mark	1.0722	1.0776
Swiss Franc	0.4369	0.4391
French Franc	0.4872	0.4896
Japanese Yen	0.1286	0.1292
Dutch Guilder	0.5550	0.5578
Swedish Krona	0.3883	0.3902
Italian Lira	0.1016	0.1021
Belgian Franc	0.0495	0.0497

Currency	Bid	Offer
US Dollar	1.7990	1.8150
Deutsche Mark	0.03621	0.03633
Swiss Franc	0.1830	0.1840
French Franc	2.2850	2.3000
Japanese Yen	0.1864	0.1874
Dutch Guilder	0.2020	0.2150
Swedish Krona	1.7550	1.7690
Italian Lira	0.1864	0.1874
Belgian Franc	0.3299	0.3499
Cypriot Pound	1.4650	1.4760

Index	12.12.92 Close	13.12.92 Close
All-Share	165.64	164.42
Banking Sector	119.92	120.16
Insurance Sector	183.26	179.54
Industry Sector	225.36	224.66
Services Sector	237.55	237.78

Index	12.12.92 Close	13.12.92 Close
All-Share	165.64	164.42
Banking Sector	119.92	120.16
Insurance Sector	183.26	179.54
Industry Sector	225.36	224.66
Services Sector	237.55	237.78

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
Deutsche mark	1.738/43	1.5740/50
Dutch guilder	1.7658/700	1.4120/30
Swiss franc	32.35/39	5.3540/90
French franc	1388/1391	123.75/85
Italian lire	6.7850/950	6.8250/350
Japanese yen	6.8250/350	6.0850/950
Swedish crown	11.5610/20	333.30/335.80
Norwegian crown		
Danish crown		

World art market shows stirrings from recession

LONDON (R) — The world art market is showing the first stirrings of recovery after a two-year winter of recession, but the days of sky-high prices are now shrugged off as just another aberration of the 1980s boom.

A showcase of seven rare paintings by French impressionist Paul Cezanne made \$16 million at a benchmark Christie's auction in London recently, falling short of the target by \$2 million but giving auction houses some optimism.

The word from Christie's, and the other grand matriarch of the business, Sotheby's, is that speculative money has dried up and the free-spending days are over but quality pictures are bringing in true collectors.

"I think we've shown that we can sell pictures again," Charles Allsopp, chairman of Christie's Europe, told Reuters after the Cezanne sale. "I don't think it (the market) will race up. We have established a base on which to build."

This was also the message from Sotheby's and Christie's after their impressionist and modern art New York auctions in early November which netted a modest \$145 million, well below estimates but giving grounds for cautious optimism.

"At least things were moving in New York," said one European private collector, who declined to be identified. "Let's say the

Cezanne auction was a medium-splash — just two cheers for the art market."

On the New York auctions, Fiona Ford at Sotheby's said: "They were mixed but what was extremely encouraging was that there were a number of quality paintings sold by both houses."

Sotheby's sold "Asia" by Henri Matisse to a Texan art museum for \$11 million and at Christie's an unidentified American collector bought the rare "water lily basin" by Claude Monet for \$12.1 million.

"The art establishment knows it's not out of the woods," said one art dealer in London's smart Belgrave area. "It's keen to tend any green shoots, as times have been lean."

It was Sotheby's that stunned the artistic community with a mid-season announcement that it would be charging a new buyer's premium of 15 per cent on sales up to \$50,000, using the usual 10 per cent thereafter. Christie's has not moved so far.

Sotheby's July index shows art prices down 18 per cent on 1991 and down 49 per cent on 1990, but they remain up 39 per cent on five years ago and 340 per cent up on a decade ago.

Ms. Ford said there was no question of a return to the prices of the boom years. "Incredibly rich families who had no need to sell were tempted, which meant that great works of art were regularly appearing on the mar-

Swiss central bank promises relief for weak economy

ZURICH (R) — Switzerland's independent central bank has pledged to help a domestic economy mired in recession and hit by record unemployment.

The Swiss National Bank (SNB) said in its annual statement on monetary strategy for 1993 it planned to let money supply grow again, reversing the contraction of the last 12 months.

"It is to be expected that seasonally adjusted central bank money supply growth will temporarily overshoot the medium-term target in the foreseeable future," it said.

The SNB's statement followed a corresponding announcement by the German Bundesbank, which also raised its target for 1993 money supply growth.

The SNB said the extra liquidity it planned should enable interest rates to fall further next year, bringing much-needed relief to the economy.

Central bank money supply, the monetary aggregate the SNB uses for steering its policy, measures cash in circulation and sight deposits that commercial banks hold at the central bank.

Over the past year the aggregate has contracted by about one per cent, bringing the SNB far from its medium-term policy of average annual one per cent money growth over three to five years.

Part of the reason for the contraction is that the SNB slammed on the monetary brakes in the spring to push up interest rates and defend the Swiss franc during a bout of weakness.

But it is also because demand for money has been lower than anticipated due to the weakness of the economy.

More recently, though, the SNB has taken advantage of the Swiss franc's renewed strength to use every opportunity to nudge interest rates lower.

Benchmark three-month European rates have fallen to about 6.25 per cent from 9.25 per cent in June.

Commercial bank economists generally welcomed the SNB's statement, but warned that the SNB could be forced to slam on the brakes again if the franc came under renewed attack.

Beat Philipp, head of research at Bank Vontobel, said the franc was currently benefiting from the turmoil in the European Monetary System (EMS), as speculators parked their money in the "Swissie" as a safe haven. But he added that the franc could soon come under pressure if the EMS calmed down and people moved funds back into EMS currencies.

"If this happens, the SNB will have to be restrictive to counter it," he said.

Kyrgyzstan to leave rouble zone by 1995

BISHKEK (R) — Kyrgyzstan, hard hit by Russia's January price liberalisation, will leave the rouble zone and introduce its own currency by 1995, President Askar Akayev said in an interview.

"We adopted a restructuring programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). We will leave the rouble zone by 1995," he told Reuters.

The youthful physicist-turned president, sporting foreign black leather shoes and looking every bit the new-generation leader with whom the West can do business, said the IMF would lend \$300 million to the Central Asian republic in 1993.

Kyrgyzstan joined the IMF in September after a visit to the capital Bishkek by IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus.

"The IMF has expressed full confidence in Kyrgyzstan. We are the only commonwealth state towards which the IMF has no complaints," said Mr. Akayev, a reformist democrat and former head of the Academy of Sciences elected president in October 1990.

Mr. Akayev needs all the moral and economic support he can get from the West as he seeks to develop this country of breathtaking Alpine meadows and mountains where 10 million sheep, cattle and fin racehorses far outnumber the 4.3 million people.

Already the president has pushed through legislation on foreign investment and made a modest start in privatising land.

"This year we have privatised 10 per cent of land. We aim to raise this ratio to 40 per cent in 1993," Mr. Akayev said. "Everyone should be able to buy land and sell produce freely on the market."

Investment losses spark heated debate in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — The collapse of Kuwait's Spanish investments with losses of up to \$5 billion has sparked heated debate in the emirate, with opposition groups saying government investigations may not reveal the whole truth.

They say the losses go beyond mere mismanagement of the funds, and that government investigations may not uncover the full extent of alleged irregularities at London-based Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) and its Spanish subsidiary Grupo Torras S.A.

Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan was quoted Saturday as saying losses incurred by the state-owned KIO through Torras would reach \$5 billion.

Torras filed for receivership 10 days ago, citing losses exceeding \$4 billion, but Sheikh Rodhan said Kuwait's losses topped \$5 billion when KIO loans to its Spanish unit were included.

The official KUNA News agency reported Sheikh Rodhan saying investigations had revealed specific cases of irregularities at Torras which were quickly referred to the public prosecutor.

"We mentioned specific instances in which there were excesses, violations, or apparent exploitation of public money, but it is not up to us to make accusations," he said.

Opposition groups said the violations were too widespread to be put down as isolated incidents.

"It goes beyond merely mismanagement or misuse of power," said a statement sent to Reuters from the Democratic Forum, an opposition group which includes members of Kuwait's parliament.

It said government investigations might not reveal the full background to the collapsed investments.

"The government might be prepared to sacrifice scapegoats," said Jasssem Al Soudouni, a leading economist and adviser to parliament.

He said a lack of proper accounting meant the full extent of losses might not be known for another six months.

Abdullah Shayeji, a lecturer in political science at Kuwait University, said there was too much secrecy surrounding state investments.

"People were kept in the dark... we don't know how much our investment is, how much we lost, or how much the liberation cost us," he said.

The opposition Al Qabas newspaper said Sunday the government had not yet touched the heart of the issue.

"How did it happen?" the paper asked in an article on the investment collapse, which it said had "blown away the treasures of present and future generations."

Spending during the Gulf war which followed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and on post-war projects has already brought the emirate's overseas investments down from \$100 billion before the Iraqi invasion to around \$40-50 billion.

Yemen riots highlight economic crisis

SANAA (R) — Four days of cost-of-living riots in Yemen have killed 13 people and plunged the country into its worst crisis since the north and south merged in 1990.

Government and opposition parties agree something has to be done to revive the collapsing economy.

"Prices are going up steadily... our economy is not healthy and unfortunately all government bodies share the responsibility," President Ali Abdullah Saleh said in a recent speech.

Strikes and pay-rise demands were justified "but we are a poor country which needs more work and production," he added.

Yemen's annual inflation rate, estimated to be 100 per cent, is fuelled by a 20-billion rial (\$1.67 billion) budget deficit and a 43 per cent fall in the value of the rial against the dollar in the month up to last week.

Residents say the prices of basic commodities rise almost every day making it difficult for Yemenis to make ends meet.

The crisis sparked riots Wednesday in Taiz which later spread to Sanaa and other cities.

The riots were the worst since South and North Yemen merged and introduced a free market policy.

The government, anxious to rein back prices, is drafting a law that hopes will stop the black market pushing down the value of its rial against the dollar.

Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas said Thursday the law would enable banking authorities to decide the exchange rates rather than black market dealers.

Political sources say the authorities started to arrest black market foreign exchange dealers two days ago.

But economists dismiss such measures as short-term palliatives.

They blame the crisis on government extravagance, political chaos, shortage of foreign aid, corruption and lack of long-term planning.

Economists say the problem was triggered by the halt of Gulf Arab aid when Sanaa backed Baghdad in the 1990-91 Gulf crisis and the expulsion of a million Yemenis from the Gulf.

Officials say the economy largely depended on remittances from the expelled Yemenis which amounted to \$1.4 billion in 1989.

Opposition parties blame political rivalry and misuse of funds by the General People Congress (GPC) of President Saleh and Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), the two parties that have ruled Yemen jointly since the merger.

Even the government Al Thawra newspaper says the two should end their "futile" alliance and give the opposition a chance to rule.

"Each party spends 1.5 billion rial (\$12.5 million) a year on salaries of their followers who have been appointed senior officials," said Abdul Rahman Al Jifri, one opposition leader.

Political sources say the economic unrest was probably fed by political uncertainties after elections due to be held in November were postponed.

The minimum wage in Yemen is 4,000 rials (\$333) at the official rate of 12 rials to the dollar. In the black market, it fell from 37 to the dollar in November to 53 this month.

Economists say the decline in the rial's value is due to the printing of an extra 100 billion rial notes (\$8.33 billion) which the central bank said was meant to replace old notes.

Today, Yemen's foreign currency earnings mainly depend on revenues from exporting little over 50,000 barrels per day (b/d) of oil. In 1991 oil exports earned more than \$400 million.

Yemen expects to increase oil output to 350,000 b/d by the end of next year from the current level of about 200,000 b/d.

Economists agree that oil exports are rising but say they remain too small to make much difference in the short term.

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PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144

HARD TO KILL
Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Special show for children
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Kinder Garten Cop

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Nabil & Hisham's AHLAN THEATRE
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Congress confirms Chernomyrdin as Russian premier

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Boris Yeltsin Monday abandoned his embattled architect of free-market reforms, Yegor Gaidar, and nominated a compromise candidate for prime minister, who easily won confirmation by Russia's congress. The new prime minister will be Viktor Chernomyrdin, who has served as deputy prime minister in charge of the oil and gas industry.

Mr. Chernomyrdin won 721-172, exactly 200 votes more than necessary. The Congress of People's Deputies last week had rejected Mr. Gaidar, Mr. Yeltsin's first choice, because it blamed him for soaring inflation and falling production associated with his free market reforms.

Accepting the job, Mr. Chernomyrdin said, "I am in favour of reforms, in favour of deepening reforms, but without deepening the impoverishment of the people."

This drew stormy applause from lawmakers in the Grand Kremlin Palace. "I am ready to head the government and take our country out of the deadlock," Mr. Chernomyrdin said.

The 54-year-old Chernomyrdin spent his career in Russia's oil and gas industry. He was chosen to please moderates and hardliners demanding that Mr. Yeltsin appoint cabinet ministers with more experience in economic and industrial management.

"Mr. Gaidar had drawn most of his team from academic institutions."

In choosing Mr. Chernomyrdin, Mr. Yeltsin also bypassed Yuri Skokov, a moderate who is secretary of the president's influential Security Council.

Mr. Yeltsin said in a downbeat speech nominating Mr. Chernomyrdin that he still preferred Mr. Gaidar, but that the 36-year-old acting prime minister had proposed that the president pick another candidate.



A woman holding a portrait of Russian President Boris Yeltsin with the slogan "We believe in Yeltsin and Gaidar," shouts during a rally in support of the president outside Moscow's Gorky Park (AFP photo)

Many were chosen by regional Communist Party organisations, official trade unions, state-run factories and collective farms. Mr. Gaidar had been the main focus of the 12-day session of the congress.

The day after the congress rejected Mr. Gaidar, Mr. Yeltsin demanded a nationwide referendum on new elections. But lawmakers countered Friday by passing a law banning such referendums.

The compromise was reached Saturday in talks between the president and a parliamentary delegation headed by Mr. Khasbulatov, Mr. Yeltsin's main opponent. Valery Zorkin, chief justice of the Constitutional Court, brokered the deal.

Mr. Gaidar said Monday he would not serve under newly appointed prime minister. "I will of course resign and will not return," he told reporters after the supreme legislature approved Mr. Yeltsin's nomination of the more conservative Chernomyrdin.

Mr. Gaidar sat looking downcast as Mr. Yeltsin told congress that he still supported his acting prime minister's policies, but with his agreement was proposing Mr. Chernomyrdin.

"I of course do not want to interfere with Viktor Stepanovich (Chernomyrdin), to carry out the policies which he deems necessary," Mr. Gaidar said.

"Still I think that we will promise to carry on a policy of reforms."

Mr. Gaidar said he was not disappointed and would even recommend that some of his ministers stay in the government.

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Bosnian fighting continues as talks start on 'safe' corridors

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Shelling and gunfire rocked the Sarajevo area early Monday despite a new ceasefire agreement. But negotiators began talks on opening corridors for civilian traffic into and around the besieged city.

There were no signs that the truce agreed on a day earlier, the conflict's 19th, was likely to hold. Sporadic artillery and small weapons fire echoed across the newly snow-busted valley, but quieted at least temporarily during the day.

U.N. spokesman Mik Magnusson said fighting in outlying districts was heavy and that it would probably take a few days for any ceasefire orders to reach all units.

No specific deadline was set for the ceasefire, which reaffirmed a previous truce, but Gen. Philippe Morillon, the U.N. commander in the area, had said he expected guns to fall silent on Monday.

The Bosnian capital's 400,000 residents are still without power, water or electricity. Hospital officials said patients were dying due to lack of fuel to run generators.

But Cedric Thornberry, deputy chief of U.N. forces in former Yugoslavia, told a Belgrade news conference the rate of delivery of humanitarian aid to Sarajevo was increasing.

U.N. relief convoys brought in 200 tonnes of food Monday, but two trucks were destroyed en route in an accident due to bad road conditions, said Alekha Lisinski, a U.N. spokeswoman in Zagreb.

Relief flights, suspended Dec. 1 after a U.S. plane was hit by ground fire, were expected to resume later in the week.

Mr. Magnusson said the three planned safe corridors, which are to go into effect Dec. 18, were part of "a step by step approach to demilitarise the city and then lift the siege."

There was no word on progress in the talks, taking place at Sarajevo's airport. The final details are to be concluded by Friday, Mr. Magnusson said.

All sides are concerned that the corridors — one of which leads out of the city through a difficult mountain pass — not be used for military purposes, and expressed skepticism that the others would respect the freedom of movement.

Mr. Magnusson said although the proposal could crumble easily, the sides now appeared more willing to compromise.

About 1,000 Bosnian detainees were to be released Monday from the Manjaca detention camp in northern Bosnia, joining more than 700 released from the camp in the last month, the Red Cross said.

The remaining 2,000 detainees will be released Wednesday and Friday, and then the camp will be closed, said Jette Soerensen, a Red Cross spokeswoman in Zagreb.

But in other parts of Bosnia north of Sarajevo, Serbian shelling, which has been heavy in recent days, continued.

British Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown came under Serbian mortar attack while travelling with British U.N. troops near the Muslim-held town of Turbe, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported.

Mr. Ashdown was not hurt in the attack. Some road convoys from Belgrade were also reportedly stopped due to fighting along the way.

No casualty reports were available from the recent fighting. At least 17,000 people have died in fighting between Muslims, Serbs and Croats in Bosnia and more than 100,000 are missing.

Muslims and Croats voted in February for independence from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia, provoking a rebellion by Bosnian Serbs.

Serbs now control about 70 per cent of the republic, and Croats hold much of the rest.

The recent escalation of fighting around Sarajevo, under Serb siege for eight months, has drawn new calls for outside military intervention.

European governments fear the fighting could spread to other ethnically tense areas of the Balkans, and Islamic nations want more done to help Bosnia's out-gunned Muslims.

In Stockholm Monday, foreign ministers gathered at a 51-nation meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe were expected to call for sterner action against Serbian leaders.

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Japan minister most foreigner lazy

TOKYO (R) — New Labour Minister Michael Meade was quoted as saying that foreigners in Japan were lazy and why their economies were poor.

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WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

German minister resigns

BONN (R) — Christian Schwarz-Schilling, Germany's post and telecommunications minister since Chancellor Helmut Kohl took office a decade ago, resigned Monday. Mr. Schwarz-Schilling, who announced his resignation, was one of several veteran ministers likely to be replaced next month in a mid-term cabinet reshuffle intended to rejuvenate Mr. Kohl's centre-right coalition before the 1994 elections. A Christian Democrat appointed post minister in 1982, Mr. Schwarz-Schilling was one of four ministers who had been in Mr. Kohl's cabinet from the beginning. German government sources said Mr. Kohl had planned to remove Mr. Schwarz-Schilling next month and this probably led the minister into a face-saving resignation.

Indonesian quake toll nears 1,600

MAUMERE, Indonesia (R) — Almost 1,600 bodies had been found by Monday after an earthquake and huge tidal waves turned parts of Indonesia's "island of flowers" into a cemetery. Officials said 1,584 people were confirmed dead and many missing since the quake, which measured 6.8 on the Richter Scale, hit Flores Island in eastern Indonesia Saturday. A senior official of East Nusa Tenggara Province, which includes Flores, told Reuters the death toll was expected to rise further. Fresh tremors were still shaking the island, terrifying survivors. "We expect more bodies but we have no figures for the missing," said Herman Gadidjou, an aide to Governor Hendrikus Fernandez, by telephone from Kupang. In Maumere the tremors struck about every two hours and panic-stricken survivors faced another night under tents in fields and other open spaces.

Savimbi urged to heed moderates

Lisbon (R) — A senior official of Angola's former rebel movement UNITA criticised the movement's leader Jonas Savimbi Monday for listening too much to the advice of hardliners. Norberto De Castro, UNITA's deputy director of information, told the Portuguese radio station TSF that Mr. Savimbi should pay more heed to moderates opposed to a resumption of civil war. Mr. Castro, who was put under guard by the government after he was captured during a military showdown between UNITA and government forces in the capital Luanda last month, first voiced dissent with UNITA's leadership last week.

Panic says he is key to Yugoslav peace

PARIS (R) — Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic believes he is the only chance to stop the Yugoslav conflict from spreading and wants the European Community (EC) to help him be elected as president of Serbia. "If the international community does not hear Milan Panic, the blaze can spread to the whole of Europe. I am your only chance," Mr. Panic said in an interview published Monday by the French newspaper Ouest-France. "Help me, help me, help me... you must help me for the election and democratisation," he said, promising to disarm Serb paramilitary forces in Bosnia if he was elected. Mr. Panic spoke out against United Nations military intervention in Bosnia.

Sihanouk threatens to stop working with U.N. force

BANGKOK (R) — Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk has threatened to stop cooperating with U.N. peacekeepers in his country because, he alleges, the world body cannot maintain peace there.

"I cannot stay without reacting when confronted with the multiplication of political terrorist acts and the continuation, with absolute impunity, of crimes with political motivation," the former king said in a letter to his office in Bangkok.

The letter was distributed to news organisations Monday. Prince Sihanouk, 70, currently on holiday in Peking said the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was apparently incapable of stopping the violence.

UNTAC, under the terms of a peace treaty signed by the four Cambodian factions in Paris in October, 1991, is charged with organising nationwide elections for next May.

The Prince cited acts of violence against officials of the royalist faction that he used to head before assuming the neutral chairmanship of the Supreme National Council (SNC), the all-faction reconciliatory body that represents Cambodian sovereignty under the terms of the Paris accord.

"I must conclude that UNTAC and the Phnom Penh government... are not capable or willing to install democracy and peace in my country," he said.

The Phnom Penh government was installed by Vietnamese invaders after they drove the radical Khmer Rouge from power in 1979. Prince Sihanouk became a reluctant ally of the Khmer Rouge in the civil war that followed.

"I, Norodom Sihanouk, will stop working with this UNTAC and the government of Cambodia to which I have always been loyal and have effectively helped and sustained," he said.

UNTAC has pledged to carry through with the may elections even though the Khmer Rouge, the most powerful anti-Phnom Penh faction, has refused to comply with key elements of the Paris agreement, including disarmament.

UNTAC officials in the provinces have charged the Phnom Penh government with harassing workers from other parties.

There was no immediate comment from UNTAC on Prince Sihanouk's threat.

In a separate statement issued in Peking, Prince Sihanouk begged Cambodians to rally their patriotic spirit, saying the country was in the process of losing its soul.

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Mud-slinging enlivens S. Korean campaign

SEOUL (R) — South Korean opposition presidential candidate Kim Dae-Jung denounced his main rival Monday for a campaign to smear him as a Communist sympathiser.

Mr. Kim Dae-Jung told reporters that Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) candidate Kim Young-Sam, his long-time opposition partner who joined the ruling party two years ago, was trying to cheat voters with a campaign of dirty tricks.

With the election Friday, the race between the two front-runners is too close for political observers to call.

"Candidate Kim Young-Sam is telling a lie that I am pro-Communist. I was really shocked... and I urge him to make a sincere apology," Mr. Kim Dae-Jung said.

South Korea bans communism or any pro-communist activity. Mr. Kim Dae-Jung's Democratic Party (DP) last month formed an alliance with a dissident group, long accused by the government of supporting the policies of Communist North Korea.

The DLP, describing Kim Dae-Jung in its campaign leaflets as an "ideologically distrustful man," urged him to cut ties with the National Alliance for Democracy and Unification.

"The North is inciting radical students and dissidents in the South to support Kim Dae-Jung," a DLP spokesman said.

Mr. Kim Dae-Jung said the dissident group was not pro-Communist and many of its members worked with Kim Young-Sam to restore democracy when he was in opposition.

He said Kim Young-Sam was resorting to smear campaigns "because it becomes apparent he cannot win."

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